

WELCOME BACK INFORMATION 2009-2010!

Welcome back, Parents and Students!

I don't know exactly what is going on, but someone keeps shortening our summers!

We are excited about the 2009-2010 school year! I am going to do some "Questions and Answers" to help you prepare for the opening of school. More detailed information will be coming home at the beginning of school, but this will get you started!

When is the Orientation?

The New Year Kick-Off will be **TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009** from 5-7 p.m. Students will be able to find out who their advisory teacher is and what team they are on, but schedules will not be given out until Wednesday for students. You can purchase pizza for dinner, meet the team teachers, join PTA, purchase League-wear, school supplies, talk with a bus supervisor to answer questions about routes and pickup times, and wander around and get the lay of the land. Students, of course, will want to see their friends and talk about what they are going to wear.... **OPEN HOUSES** to meet your specific teachers will be August 25 for 6th grade and self-contained students, August 27 for 7th and 8th graders.

What time does school start and where will my child report when they get there?

On Wednesday, August 19, 2009, school begins at 8:10 (as always), and as students are dropped off, 6th graders will report to the Cafeteria, 7th graders will go to gym, and 8th graders to the auditorium. Normally, 6th graders will go to the cafeteria, and 7th and 8th graders will report to the gym. We will be sure they are handed over to their advisory teachers, who will take it from there.

NEW!! CHANGED!!! How does the pickup and dropoff system work?

We have been informed by the State Fire Marshall that we can no longer "double stack" in the pickup line. We normally have not double stacked in the morning, but had in the afternoon. SO – that means that it may take a few minutes longer to get your student in the afternoon. One adjustment we have made is the dismissal "order." 6th graders will be dismissed after announcements, 7th graders when the bell rings at 3:10, and 8th graders will be allowed to go to their lockers when the bell rings and then exit the building. What we have found is that many of the cars belong to 6th grade parents, and that 8th graders are MUCH too cool to hurry out to the cars, and would rather socialize with their friends for a few minutes after school!

Can I change my Team?

Nope! Sorry! All teams are set as evenly as possible. Students will see their friends in the other team during related arts classes.

Can I switch my related arts classes?

Again, nope! Sorry! We have a very large group of 6th graders this year, and the 7th and 8th grade related arts include the intermediate and advanced arts classes. Even if you find a friend who will "switch" with you, we will likely not be able to

grant your request. If you want to request a change, please put your request in writing to Ms. Cox, give it to your advisory teacher, and he/she will submit it to the guidance counselors. **NO CHANGE WILL BE MADE UNLESS APPROVED BY MS. COX.**

How much is lunch and breakfast?

Breakfast prices:

Full pay student: \$1.00

Reduced student: \$0.30

Lunch prices:

Full paid student: \$2.00

Reduced student: \$0.40

It is important that you complete and return the forms for free and reduced lunch form that will come home if you need to so it can be processed quickly and your student will not run up a balance in the cafeteria. You must complete the information every year, or your child will be required to pay for the meals.

What about dress code?

The dress code has not changed, and is generally simple: Flip flops are not allowed, shorts and skirts for young ladies have to reach mid-thigh when seated, tops and bottoms must **ALWAYS** meet in the middle, and shoulder straps must be at least 3 inches wide. Gentlemen need to be sure their shirts are no longer than their wrists or they have to be tucked in, and shorts and pants need to be on their waist, not hanging around their rear ends or worse! More specifics in the student handbook.

What about cell phones?

Students can certainly bring cell phones, however, they cannot be ANYWHERE but in their locker during the school day. This includes purses, bookbags, pockets, socks, etc. If a teacher or staff member sees a cell phone, whether it rings, buzzes, tweeks or not, it will be confiscated and turned over to an administrator. We will follow district policies about this – more details in the student handbook. Students should not bring MP3s and other electronics. There is not time during the day for them to listen/play, and the school will not be responsible for them if stolen since they are not to be at school.

I hope this information will get your started, and will ease your mind. We are thrilled to have another new start of the school year – another chance to do it right – to help you raise great kids.

As always – my email, phone, and door are always open. We welcome your input and questions and help!

Thanks, and let's have a great year!

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE ON THE WEBSITE AND WILL BE SENT OUT VIA SCHOOL MESSENGER ON AUG. 11, 13 and 16.