Welcome Back Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM DR. ZAHEDI AND MS. FENN SMITH

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! Hopefully, you are enjoying family time together during these last, beautiful summer days. I would like to offer a special welcome to our incoming 6th graders and parents.

The faculty and staff will do their very best to ease their transition from Mill Road and make every 6th grader feel welcome and at home.

Miss Schrepf will be serving as our 6th grade school counselor. Students in 7th and 8th grade will have Mrs. Quaglietta (A-J) and Mrs. Allison (K-Z) and as their school counselor. In our efforts to improve communication, our first newsletter is filled with frequently asked questions as well as other pertinent information. Newsletters will be posted on our website on a bi-monthly basis and will include important events, happenings and program highlights.

You will receive an informational packet that includes your child’s school schedule during the week of August 19th. Our school counselors will return to work on August 26th. If you have not received this packet or a schedule was not included, please call the main office at 758-2241 ext. 25020.

Please continue to help us in the education of your child by staying involved and keeping up communication with your child’s teachers and school counselor. Positive parent/school partnership is essential to the success of our school.

Please do not hesitate to call or email if there is anything we can do for you. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

INCOMING 6TH GRADE ORIENTATION—AUGUST 27th

We would like to welcome 6th grade students and parents to an orientation which will be held on Tuesday, August 27th, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the LAMS Cafeteria.

CYBER SMART TRAINING FOR 6TH GRADE—August 29th

On Thursday, August 29th, 9—11 a.m. in the cafeteria, 6th grade students will have a Cyber Smart Training. Please note that it is required attendance.
As the school year begins, the question of what’s appropriate to wear to school comes to mind. Students and parents are reminded that a student’s attire should not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their families have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel will reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student’s dress, grooming and appearance shall:

1. be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process;
2. recognize that context will often determine the appropriateness of apparel;
3. ensure that underwear is appropriately covered with outer clothing;
4. include footwear at all times, but not footwear that is a safety hazard;
5. hats, hoods or other head gear including audio devices are not to be worn in the building except for medical or religious purposes;
6. not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of actual or perceived race, color, height, weight, religion or religious practice, creed, national origin, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, sex or disability;
7. not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal, violent or sexual activities.

Calling For Homework

If your child is absent, please follow the homework procedure that is given to students by their teachers at the start of the school year. If the absence is for 3 days or more, please call Mrs. Tovcimak in Student Services at ext. 26010. Homework may be picked up at the table in the hallway outside of the Main Office after 2:30 p.m.
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- **Lost & Found**: Books and small items are in the main office; clothing and lunchboxes are in the cafeteria.
- **Expensive personal items**: Do not bring expensive items to school as the district is not responsible for replacement of lost or stolen items.
- **Physical Education excuses** are to be brought to the health office during homeroom.
- **Late bus leaves at 3:45 p.m.**: All students staying after school must have a bus pass from a teacher or coach.
- The supply list was sent out in July through school messenger and will also be included in the August schedule packet. Be sure to have paper and pencil to use on your 1st day.

**ARRIVING LATE — LEAVING EARLY**

If your child arrives late to school, he/she must have a signed note stating the reason for the lateness (medical, personal, etc.) This note should be brought to Student Services upon arrival and he/she will then be given a pass to class. It is not necessary for you to walk in with your child. Additional information is available pertaining to lateness in the student handbook.

If your child must leave early, please send a signed note with him/her stating the reason and the time of pick up. Students should bring the note to Mrs. Toveimak, secretary in Student Services, upon entering school. The student will then receive a pass to be released from class early. When picking up your child, please come to Student Services for sign out. If your child will be returning to school, you do not have to walk him/her into the building. The student should report to Student Services to receive a pass back to class.

**BUS CHANGE**

If your child will be going home on a different bus, you must send a signed note in with your child. Students should bring this signed bus note to the main office upon arrival. Please include the street address, the name of the person they will be visiting and, if possible, the bus number. Students are not allowed to call from school to make bus changes for non-school related plans.

**Phone Calls Home/Phone Usage in School**

Students will be prohibited from possessing smart phones or smart watches (i.e., internet enabled devices) and related accessories (e.g., earbuds) on their person during the school day without permission from the Building Principal. Smart devices and related accessories may be stored in a school bag (in the off position) for before or after school use. The school bag must be in a locked locker. The school district is not responsible for any lost or stolen smart devices.

The phone in the office is for emergency use only. We find that many students are calling home to make plans for after school. To help alleviate phone gridlock, please be sure you have made all necessary arrangements for after school with your child. This includes bus notes, school activities, appointments and where they are allowed to go after the school day ends. In addition to alleviating heavy phone usage it is also a safety issue. It is very difficult to verify last minute changes. With this in mind, please have afternoon plans in place before your child comes to school. We appreciate your help.
This year we look forward to our 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. departing on October 2nd and returning on October 4th. Please note that the dates of the trip were moved up one week due to Yom Kippur. The Washington D.C. trip is a 3-day, 2-night excursion to our nation’s capitol. During our stay, we get to visit some of the greatest museums and most historic locations in our country. On day 1 we will visit Arlington National Cemetery and board a dinner cruise on the Odyssey w/DJ and night views of the city starting at the National Harbor into the old town.

On day 2 we will visit the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian Museums. After dinner in the heart of Washington, D.C. we will take a guided tour of the monuments which are the Lincoln Memorial, Korean & Vietnam Veterans Memorials, and the National World War II Memorial with views of the Washington Monument, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial.

On day 3 our adventure will continue with a tour inside the White House and a visit to Fort McHenry in Baltimore.

This trip gives our students a “hands-on” learning experience that cannot be duplicated in the classroom.

For those that did not pay in full and made a payment of $200, the remaining balance of $230 was due June 3rd. If you have not paid in full, please stop by LAMS over the summer to make your final payment.

Also, please bring in a written doctor’s order for the specific medication and written parental permission to administer the medication to your child by our nurse by September 23rd.

Please feel free to contact Deborah Temple, with any questions at 758-2241 ext. 25030.

We look forward to this educational and exciting experience for our 8th grade students. Because the trip is taking place early in the year, our students will form a greater bond that will make for a very special school year!

**Worth Quoting**

“The time is always right to do what is right.” Martin Luther King Jr.

**Be There!**

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

♦ Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your child needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group/ projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.

♦ Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can’t, try to arrange them for lunchtime.

♦ It will be easier for your child to get up on time for school if he/she has had at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, make sure he/she puts away electronic devices so he/she isn’t tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games.

♦ We recommend that all parents install family supervision controls that prohibit use after 9 PM and before 6 AM. Many parents require children charge phones in the parents bedroom.
School Absences

Research and experience demonstrate a strong connection between good attendance and success in school. When a student has been absent from school, they must provide a signed note from their parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence. Notes should be brought to Mrs. Tovcimak in Student Services upon arrival to school. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Tovcimak at ext. 26010.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

SIXTH GRADE PARENTS:
If you received a reminder letter in June/July regarding mandatory immunizations, please send the doctor documentation that was requested to the nurse as soon as possible.

SEVENTH GRADE PARENTS:
Please send your child’s completed physical exam forms to the nurse as soon as possible.

MODIFIED SPORTS:
Modified sports will begin **Monday, September 9th**. Paperwork should be processed starting on August 10th which can be done online, or paperwork can be picked up at the HS Athletic Office (7th and 8th grades only.) Please pick up the new sports physical papers at the HS Athletic Office before going to your private physician.

Student Handbook

The **Student Handbook** will be located inside your Student Planner, which will be distributed the first week of school. Please be sure to go over the contents with your child when you sign and **RETURN THE RECEIPT PAGE** to your child’s homeroom teacher. Be sure to over the section on dress code and the use of cell phones as they have changed. It’s important to establish clear routines for your children. Students are only allowed to stay in the building or on school grounds after school when they have a meeting or session scheduled with a teacher or when they are involved in a club or activity. To keep your child safe, students are not allowed to leave school and return later for rides on the late bus.
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALEX GRAVINO, PLEASE JOIN US IN THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY RUN/FUN WALK OF CATCH A “RAE” — September 22nd —

Alexandra Rae Gravino Annual Walk/Run will be kicking off on Sunday, September 22nd. Registration time begins at 7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m. at LAMS. This race is in memory of Alex. Please come run/walk and make this year another success. We hope to see you there! All proceeds will benefit Action for Alex, including the Alexandra Rae Gravino Arts & Athletics Scholarships. Applications are sent home with student schedules. Register online at http://getmeregistered.com/catcharae

CATCH * A * RAE
5K Run, 5K Fun Walk, 1 Mile Run

Picture Day—September 25th

On Wednesday, September 25th, your child(ren) will have their picture taken. Detailed information and order forms will be sent home with your child(ren) prior to that day.

Lock Your Lockers

Lockers are provided for the students to store and protect their belongings. Lockers are the property of the school, and, as such, may be searched at any time.

Please remind your child about the importance of keeping their lockers locked and not sharing their combinations with friends. The locker rooms are not a secure area and any items that are not securely locked could be a temptation for others. As always, valuable items as well as large amounts of money should not be brought into school. The school is not responsible for any item that is lost or stolen.
Student Council welcomes students back to school for another great year. This year’s Welcome Back Theme is “The Future.” Many of our activities will build upon the theme. For example, the first evening activity will be an Activity Night which includes an open gym and a DJ in the cafeteria. This is planned for September 13, 2019 from 7 pm to 9 pm. The decorations will feature a futuristic theme. Should homecoming effect this date, the activity will be changed to September 20th.

Welcome Back Week begins September 11th with trivia contests, games of chance, and prizes at lunchtime. On Wednesday Student Council will host the club expo (see below); Thursday we’ll dress up in a theme to be announced, and Friday is Red Raider Friday. If your name is selected from among the students in your class and you are wearing red and white, or Raider spirit wear, you will win a candy prize. Red Raider Fridays will continue each Friday for the entire school year.

On Wednesday, September 11th, Student Council will host the annual Club Expo. Club advisors and members will post information about the various after school clubs available at LAMS. Students will be able to preview the information, review schedules, and begin to select which clubs they might like to try. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Expo, but students may join clubs at any time during the school year as long as the advisor has space for more. Students may use late buses to get home from clubs during the school year. Parents are welcome to attend the Club Expo during their child’s lunch period: Sixth grade—10:45, eighth grade—11:30, and seventh grade—12:10. The Expo will be cleaned up at 12:35. Please expect a certain amount of chaos at the tables as students are excited by the possibilities available to them. Remember, information is available on this day, but students may continue to join and research clubs that interest them throughout the year.

The students have already begun planning for an exciting, fun-filled year! Please note that after school activities are meant to be fun times allowing students to interact with peers, explore interests and raise funds for field trips, award nights, and special school activities. We cannot continue to provide the programs we hope for unless students participate in activities.

As in the past, student council member’s goal is that no student walks away from middle school thinking, “There was nothing to do.”