



August 27, 2024

Dear Families,

Hello and welcome to the 8th grade! I'm Ali Miller, the 8th grade Dean. I look forward to working with you and supporting your child and you throughout the school year. A little about me: I grew up in Bergen County, moved to Los Angeles after college, and moved back to New Jersey three years ago. I attended Ithaca College for undergrad and UCLA for graduate school. I have spent the majority of my career in education in middle school. Upon returning to New Jersey, I taught 8th grade Humanities at Bank Street School for Children and previously, I worked as both a teacher and an administrator for almost 20 years at an independent school in Los Angeles. I'm thrilled to be beginning my third year at D-E.

We have 7 new students and families in our 8th grade class. Welcome!

Here are some details as we begin the school year. In case you haven't been to the **MS Start of School 2024** site already, I highly recommend it. It has almost everything you would need to know regarding the start of school: click [here](#) or go to: <https://startofschool.d-e.org/middle-school-start-of-school-page/>

Also, this document may also be helpful: our [Scheduled School Closures Calendar 2024-2025 \(PDF\)](#): **Click [here](#) to view/download**. This information is current as of July 16, 2024. Important: please note these dates are subject to change. For the most current calendar information visit d-e.org/calendar.

Advisory: Your child will be sent an email from their advisor by the end of the day on **Thursday**. *If your child doesn't receive it by Friday, please let me know.*

Day One, Tuesday, September 3:

Drop off and pick up: Students arriving by car should be dropped off in front of the middle school building, where Mr. Davis and myself and some other 8th grade teachers will be waiting to meet them and direct them to the opening all-class meeting on the third floor porch. If your child is new to DE or is a buddy for a new student, they should meet up in the grove area in front of the MS building and go to the third floor porch in the middle school together.

Your child needs to bring a charged iPad, their Levenger, writing utensils, and a water bottle.

Chances are it will be warm that day so please make sure your child dresses in comfortable clothes they can be active in and shoes good for walking. If your child tends to get cold, it might be a good idea to have them bring a sweatshirt or sweater for when we are in the air-conditioned buildings. New students will get their Levenger on the first day of school.

Returning Student Buddies: If you are a buddy, be sure to connect with your new student again this coming week and remember to meet your new student buddy and bring them to the third floor porch in the middle school building. Please see the email from Mr. Samedy.

Parent Orientation: Parent Orientation will be on **Monday, September 9 @ 6:30 pm**. This night is for *new* parents. More information and an invitation to follow.

Sports and Activities: Sports will begin on **Monday, September 9**. We will have a sports and activities offerings assembly prior to that date so that kids can learn about various options and sign up for sports. Look for an email from the athletics department with a link for pre-season sign-ups, and see the athletic page of the website for details.

Picture Day is on **Monday, September 16**. More details to come. For an Order Form (PDF) click [here](#).

Back to School Night: Back to School Night will occur on the evening of **September 19 at 6:30pm** and is a program presented by the middle school teachers geared towards giving you insight into the day to day in the classrooms and our curriculum. You will receive an e-invitation closer to the date.

SEEK Trips: The 8th grade overnight trip is coming soon! The dates of the trip are **September 25-27** and students will be going to *one* of the following places: Washington, D.C., Cape Cod, Philadelphia or Montreal. We will work the first weeks of school to gather student preferences for this overnight trip. More paperwork and information will be coming soon!

NOTE: Your child will need either a birth certificate or a passport to go to Montreal. In addition, there is a document that must be notarized.

Communication: If you need to contact someone mid-day and get a message to your child or you need a same-day response to a question, please reach out to the middle school office manager, **Ms. Cebulski, at 201-227-3230**, or if it is attendance related, our MS Attendance Coordinator, **Ms. Jones, at 201-227-3301** or via email at msattendance@d-e.org.

To-Do's before the first day of school: finish your math packet/Aleks, finish your summer reading books, pick up your iPad and set it up, complete Magnus forms, order books and set up a workstation at home for your child.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions. My office number is 201-227-3236 and my email is millea@d-e.org. I can't wait to see/meet your children and you. It's going to be a wonderful year!

Warmly,

Ali Miller
8th Grade Dean

