



Dear 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

I hope your child has enjoyed the start of school! It has been a busy, exciting week, and there is more to come. The class is in great form, and their teachers and I are delighted to be enjoying these opening days in their company. I have the sense most students are enjoying all the new discoveries, but we also know this can be an overwhelming time for young folks. Please feel free to reach out to me, your child's advisor, or Mrs. Levitan if you have any concerns or want to share about your child's experience. Monday evening also is a great time to bring general questions. I look forward to meeting with you all then -- and especially to your getting together as grade-level parents. This is a great opportunity to touch base with each other, welcome new acquaintances, and spend a little time with the parents of the classmates your child is collaborating with every day.

Dates of Interest

- **September 9th, PARENT ORIENTATION, 6:30pm.** This program is for ALL 6th grade parents/guardians (as well as parents of 7th and 8th graders new to the school). Check your email for an invitation from the middle school office sent earlier this week. This event is in-person only and, in addition to going over important details relevant to everyone, will introduce 6th grade parents to a few faculty members whom you will not have a chance to meet at Back-to-School night.
- **September 9th, after school, Fall Sports and Try-Outs Start** -- If your child is interested, they should check their email and fill out the form sent by our athletic director earlier in the week. Weekly practice/try-outs [schedules](#) are posted on the [athletics page](#) of the school website.
- **September 9th** -- Yondr pouch distribution in TAG -- See earlier emails from head of school, Ms Fibiger and MS principal, Mr. Davis about our new policy regarding cell phones and smart watches. After the 9th, smart communication devices should spend school hours powered down and locked up!
- **September 16th, Picture Day** -- All students are photographed for the yearbook and ID cards. If you would like copies of your child's ID photo "head shot", send in a check and [this form](#) with your child on Picture Day to give directly to the photographer.
- **September 19th, Back To School Night** -- Look for an email invitation soon.
- **September 26th-27th, Overnight Trip** -- Team-Building at YMCA [Camp Mason](#). More information will be shared at Monday's Fall Parent Orientation.

Around the Dinner Table...

- **Clubs** -- Middle School is a great time to try something new or to lean into a current passion. During a special advisory period at the end of the day on Thursday, students had a chance to look at descriptions of clubs offered this fall and to meet coaches for fall sports. They should have indicated their choices in advisory by filling out a google form. If they did not sign up or need to change options, they can just show up at try outs on Monday or check in with our activities coordinator, Matt Larowe, on Monday or Tuesday about switching clubs. If they have questions or are not sure what to do, encourage them to ask me or a teacher.
- **Honor Code of Conduct (HCC) and Acceptable Use of Technology (AU)Pages** -- Students received and discussed both of these during advisory, after an assembly about how these policies and community agreements are an important foundation of how we all interact and take care of our community. Please take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the shared home/school values we all work to put into action in our lives. Students are expected to indicate their understanding of and commitment to these expectations by signing the pages with you and returning them to their advisors by Tuesday. Look for an email from Mr. Davis to you with more information (and back-up copies of the forms attached should the hard copies handed out in advisory go astray.)

Reminders

- **Please help your child return signed copies of the HCC and AU contracts** -- See Mr. Davis' email to parents today.
- **Students should check email nightly** -- A pre-season sign up for sports was sent to them recently, and teachers also communicate important, timely details via email.

- **Attendance** -- You will want to download the School Pass app if you have not already done so. You can use it to communicate **unplanned** absences or tardies/early pick up plans in a timely way. Instructions are on the website [here](#). Mrs. Jones is our attendance coordinator for middle school. You also can reach her at MSattendance@d-e.org or 201-227-3301 in case you do not have School Pass or if you have a question.
- **If you are planning an absence in advance, please email me at urbant@d-e.org and copy MSattendance@d-e.org.**
- **MS Office/Day-Of Communications** -- Our office manager is Ms. Cebulski. You can reach her at 201-227-3230 or cebuld@d-e.org. She can help you get a message to your child should you have an unexpected, time-sensitive communication. Please do NOT contact your child by text message or email that you expect them to check during the school day. We will be working with students on how to manage their personal tech so it is not managing them, and asking them to keep phones and apple watches off and stowed during the day is part of that project, as is checking email or accessing the web only when directed to do so by a teacher. You can help by communicating urgent messages through the school rather than via cell, and/or making it clear to your child that any texts you send are OK to look at after dismissal at 3:25. The teachers and I spend the day engaged with students and so often do not get to email and phone messages right away, so Ms. Cebulski also can help with other time-sensitive questions. When we go on field trips, I keep in touch with her, so she has information about our progress throughout the trip as well.
- **Textbooks** -- Some textbooks from MBS Direct are still delayed. Teachers are aware and will give grace (and xerox copies or digital downloads) to students as needed in the interim. You also may want to take care with any USED texts you purchased from MBS -- opening them and checking they are clean before giving them to your child. Please contact the school store with any report of defaced books or other questions. We apologize for these problems -- Ms Millien is communicating with the folks at MBS to follow up!

Have a happy weekend,

Tasha Urbanowski