



Parents,

What a first week! It's amazing how much has happened in 4 days. We welcomed almost 30 new students to the grade, and after an action packed orientation day, we settled into regular class schedules on Wednesday. I am so energized by this group - they are very sweet, have lots of energy and generally put a smile on my face. It's been a joy getting to know them all better both in and out of the classroom. I am pumped for the year ahead serving as their Dean! That all said, transitions can be hard so please feel free to reach out to me, your child's advisor, or our Middle School Counselor, Ms. Levitan ([levita@d-e.org](mailto:levita@d-e.org)) if you have any concerns or want to share about your child's experience. A couple of reminders looking ahead:

1. **Drop-Off and Pick-Up:** So far so good - keep in mind there will always be delays at the start of the year. Buses are figuring out systems, and there already have been some delays. Look forward to things being better next week, and pretty smooth - with athletics starting next week, pickups will be more spread out which will lighten traffic.

2. **Sports:** Sports will begin on Monday, September 9. Sign up forms have been shared a few times, and teams have had initial informational meetings. Practice schedules can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aVSOAFrFD86MV0x7u1RCFn4jXLxBxCvYy5buP9Irc/hk/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

3. **Links:**

MS Messages - <https://msmessages.d-e.org/>

Key Dates & Closures -

[https://bbk12e1-cdn.myschoolcdn.com/ftpimages/434/misc/misc\\_223235.pdf](https://bbk12e1-cdn.myschoolcdn.com/ftpimages/434/misc/misc_223235.pdf)

4. **Metro Cards:** if you ordered your child a NYC Metro card, and have not received it, we have them. Students should go to see Ms. Cebulski at the front desk of the MS building to pick up their cards.

5. **The Homework Planner:** Students received their D-E paper planner this week! They will be encouraged to use it in every class that assigns homework as well as for planning ahead to finish projects and long-term assignments.

6. **Email:** Students should check email nightly -- I will often send them emails about grade specific things and teachers also communicate important, timely details via email.

7. **Attendance:** We are transitioning to the School Pass app this year for recording early pickups, late arrivals and absences. Please go to the following link to set up:

[https://issuu.com/dwight-englewood/docs/3008-lettersize-school\\_pass\\_doc-d1?fr=sOTNjYjc2MzUzMjc](https://issuu.com/dwight-englewood/docs/3008-lettersize-school_pass_doc-d1?fr=sOTNjYjc2MzUzMjc)

Of course you can always reach out directly as well. Mrs. Jones is our attendance coordinator for middle school. You can reach her at [MSattendance@d-e.org](mailto:MSattendance@d-e.org) or 201-227-3301. Please let her know if your child will be dropped off late, picked up early or unexpectedly absent. If you are planning an absence in advance, please let me know and I can help your child fill out a planned absence form and organize their school work.

8. **Picture Day:** Picture day is Monday, September 16. 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 along with this Picture Day Form linked below with your child on MS Picture Day.

<https://startofschool.d-e.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MS-Picture-Day-2023-2024-Form.pdf>

9. **Forms:** - Students should bring home or [Honor Code of Conduct](#) form today for discussion and signing. You will also receive an email from Mr. Davis containing this form. Yesterday's assembly was all 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.)

- Please look for our technology Acceptable Use Form and overnight trip waiver forms (More information to follow) next week.

10: **Yondr Phone Pouches:** Yondr pouches will be distributed this coming Monday. From 9/9 on, phones and smart watches should be powered down and secured in the pouch during school hours. Please see earlier emails from head of school, Ms Fibiger and MS principal, Mr. Davis about our new policy regarding cell phones and smart watches.

### **Key September/October Dates**

**September 9, 6:30 PM:** New Parent Orientation (you should have an invitation - this is for NEW families only)

**September 16:** MS Picture Day

**September 19, 6 PM:** Back To School Night

**September 26 -27:** 7th Grade overnight trip

**October 3 -October 4 :** Rosh Hashanah (No School)

**October 14:** Indigenous Peoples Day (No School)

That's it for now. Have a terrific weekend. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

P.S. Here is a class photo of all of the kids on day one



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James Aitken  
7th Grade Dean