

August 2017

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Harper Creek Middle School. I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

In an effort to create small learning communities within our school, we will continue to have grade level teaching teams. Teaming allows teachers and staff to focus on individual student learning. In 6th through 8th grades, teaming basically splits a grade level in half, with each half going to a four core teaching team that consists of an English teacher, a math teacher, a science teacher, and a social studies teacher. These four teachers then take responsibility for their team of students. The team of teachers will have their regular plan times and an additional team meeting time. Team meeting time is designed for the four core teachers to have an opportunity to focus on their group of students. During the 5th grade transition year, teams consist of two teachers. Each 5th grade teacher instructs students in two subjects and they have the same ability to meet with each other, students, and parents. This scheduling configuration has been changed to enhance student learning and achievement.

Our middle school schedule also includes an intervention/extension time for almost all students. W.I.N. Time (What I Need Time) is a learning period, every other day when students that need extra help will be able to work in small groups. Students that are at benchmark in all subject areas will work with a teacher and group of students in extension classes. W.I.N. Time will allow those that are struggling to get the help they need and allow those that are ready to expand their learning to do so in new and interesting ways.

The Harper Creek Middle School schedule is a true A/B schedule. A and B days will alternate every other day, even around weekends and scheduled days off.

This year, we will be holding the **Meet the Teacher Night** on Tuesday, August 29th.

- **4:30-7:30 School Pictures**
- **5:00PM 5th Grade Orientation for parents and students in the auditorium**
  - *5th Grade families should enter the building through the auditorium doors - there will be balloons to direct you to the entrance*
- **5:30-6:30PM 5th Grade Meet the Teacher**
- **5:30-7:30PM 6th-8th Grade Meet the Teacher**
  - *6th Grade Parent Meeting in the Auditorium @ 5:30*
  - *7th Grade Parent Meeting in the Auditorium @6:00*
  - *8th Grade Parent Meeting in the Auditorium @6:30*

Meet the Teacher Night is designed as an opportunity to get information, to meet your child's teacher and see the classrooms. If you have specific items to address with the teacher, please set up an appointment for another time to discuss those topics. This will assure that you will have the time and privacy you may need with the teacher.


The first day of school will be **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**. It will be a full day starting at 7:40 AM and dismissing at 2:40 PM. Parents dropping off students in the morning should not do so until after 7:00 AM. Students must be dropped off between the administration building and the middle school, on the east side of the building. Students dropped off in front of the building before 7:40 AM will not be allowed in the front doors, they will be directed to the student drop off area. At 7:40 AM the east doors are locked. Students dropped off after 7:40 should be dropped at the front.

In accordance with the Harper Creek Middle School Student Handbook, all students must be picked up no later than 3:15 PM, unless they are under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach. The student pick up area is the same as the drop off on the east side of the building between the administration and middle school. ***Please note that these times and drop off and pick up areas will be strictly enforced in order to provide a safe environment for your child.***

If your child will need medication of any kind, even cough drops or topical cream, a form needs to be completed. This form is available in the office. The form must be returned, signed by you **and your doctor**, before any medication may be distributed to your child. If you would like to bring in medication and complete the paperwork prior to school starting, the office is now open from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Medications must be brought to school in their original container and labeled with the child's name. All medications are kept in the office, unless there is a doctor's order on file. **All medications must be brought to the office by an adult. Students may not bring medications to school.**

As we begin this new school year, Mr. O'Farrell and I are eager to meet our new students and their families and to continue working with our returning students and their families at Harper Creek Middle School. If you are able, please join us for the different grade level meetings being held on Meet the Teacher Night.

Again, welcome to Harper Creek Middle School.



Mrs. Kim Thayer  
Principal