

August 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On behalf of the staff at Pelham Memorial School, we are happy to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. A strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education.

As many of you may know, Pelham Memorial School's administrative team will be a little varied as we begin this school year... Mr. Jesse Haarlander, our Assistant Principal, welcomed a baby girl to his family earlier than expected at the beginning of August! Also, Ms. Stacy Maghakian, Principal, will be welcoming a child to her family in mid-October. Not to worry! We have the wonderful assistance of Miss Jessica VanVranken, who has joined us as our Interim Principal. You all know Miss VanVranken as the Assistant Principal from Pelham Elementary School. She has temporarily left her post at PES to take on the role of Interim Principal at Memorial School. We are very happy and appreciative to have Miss VanVranken join our team!

We are all #pelhamproud to be a part of the Pelham School District. Please watch our school website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed to get updates as well as see the wonderful learning opportunities that occur at our school. We believe that all children can learn, and each child has a unique learning profile. Keeping the school atmosphere positive is the key to success as well as keeping the lines of communication open among staff, students, and parents. Teamwork is the ultimate way a school can be successful in reaching the goal of helping our students attain their full potential.

We are looking forward to a fabulous school year!

Below are some helpful announcements and reminders to students, staff, parents, and family members:

Meet & Greet:

Parents and students are welcome to come in on Friday, August 25th to meet your classroom teachers. This will begin at 11am and end at 12:00pm.

First Day of School:

Our first day of school is Monday, August 28th. On that day, our full staff is outside directing and assisting students in finding their respective advisor. We have extended an advisory that day where students will receive and review their schedules, get organized, receive locker assignments, etc.

Friday, September 1st:

This is a teacher workshop day ~ no school for students.

Our New Office:

If you have driven by Memorial School this summer, you noticed our office area construction! We are hoping that the area will be complete before our Meet & Greet day for you to view. We appreciate your understanding as we may have some workers in and out putting in those final touches!

Adjusted Schedule:

You will notice on our website that your child's schedule is MUCH easier to read than it has been in year's past. We have made slight adjustments to each grade level's schedule to accommodate our students' needs for more focused and frequent intervention, as well as increase opportunities for more personalized learning.

Report Cards:

In keeping in alignment with our district initiatives, Pelham Memorial School report cards will be electronic. Each of you have access to PowerSchool and can stay up-to-date with your child's progress any day throughout the school year. We will send out a communication at the end of each quarter where you will be invited to check the Parent Portal to review your child's end of quarter grades. Hard copies will be available upon written request.

Morning Drop Off:

Students may be dropped off at school no earlier than 7:10am each day ~ **there is no supervision prior to this time.**

Peer Tutoring:

Peer tutoring is available beginning at 7:00am, Monday – Friday. We will announce when the program is up and running.

Parent Information Night:

Monday, September 11th beginning at 6:30pm ~ your student will give you a copy of his/her schedule to follow. If they forget, we will have one on hand for you.

**Special education/504 parents are invited to come in at 6:00pm to meet our special education staff and service providers in the cafeteria.

PTSA upcoming events TBA:

Fall Fundraiser ~ be looking for information in early September!
8th Grade Washington DC Pie Fundraiser – October - November
Potluck Dinner – November during Teacher conferences
8th Grade Washington DC Calendar Fundraiser - December – January
Chocolate Gala – February
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon – May
~ Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!
Pelham Memorial PTSA

DC Trip Info:

There will be a brief info meeting for 8th grade parents right after Parent Information Night on September 11th starting at 7:45 pm in the gymnasium.

DARE in 7th grade:

We are excited to be working collaboratively with the Pelham Police Department and the district's School Resource Officer, Officer Brian Kelly, to implement the 7th grade D.A.R.E curriculum for a second year! Please be on the lookout for more info, 7th grade!

Chromebooks:

Our chromebooks were sent out for service this summer and have recently returned. 7th grade students/parents should have received an email regarding the pickup date from Holly Doe. This date is set for August 22nd at PHS in the auditorium. If you are unable to make this day/time, then your child will receive his/her chromebook during the first week of school. Parents must be registered on InfoSnap prior to this date in order to receive their chromebook. Teachers continue to learn, grow, and integrate innovative ways to engage student learning with this educational tool.

Summer Reading:

Don't forget! Summer reading cards need to be turned into Mrs. Nelson at the beginning of the school year – be listening to announcements for the deadline! If you have any questions, see Mrs. Nelson in the library.

Dress Code Reminders:

Please review the dress code with your students. The dress code guidelines are located in the student handbook on page 11. The student handbook is accessible online by going to the Memorial website, under the School Info Tab, and click PMS Student Handbook.

TEAM NAMES???

We had some wonderfully inspiring team names last school year. Each year, the teams meet, discuss, and vote on a team name. We can't wait to hear what they come up with!

We are looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year! We will continue to reflect upon our practices in an effort to bring innovative and positive educational experiences to our students. We appreciate your ongoing support!

Yours in education,

Stacy Maghakian
Jessica VanVranken
Jesse Haarlander