



## Mankato Area Public Schools

*Committed to working together equitably, so that each learner has the knowledge and skills to be a successful and contributing citizen in a diverse global society*

**Dear DMMS students, parents & caregivers,**

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope you have had a wonderful summer break and are ready to start learning. Below you will find important information, dates and events for the upcoming school year.

### **Upcoming Important Events**

Students and families are invited to come to school to kick off the 2023-2024 school year. This is an opportunity for students to meet their teachers and get their schedule. Families are welcome to come anytime from 4 PM to 8 PM on Monday, August 28th. **Please be aware that teachers will be in the building at different times.**

*In our gym, there will be multiple opportunities to hear messages from Principal Hyer and Assistant Principal Buttell. They will be in the gym at 5:00pm and 6:30pm. More information will be included in later communications.*

- **6th grade** - Monday, August 28th (4-6pm)
- **7th grade** - Monday, August 28th (5-7pm)
- **8th grade** - Monday, August 28th (6-8pm)

### **Trail Assignments**

- We are expecting students to remain in the trails they have been assigned to for the purpose of keeping balanced trails.
- We understand there are situations that are unique to a student that may result in switching a student to a different trail. These situations are rare and will require discussion with administrators. A change in a trail assignment is not guaranteed.
- We understand there will likely be mistakes in the process of assigning students to trails, if you see an error in your trail assignment, please contact our school with your concerns or questions.

### **Entrance Conferences**

Entrance conferences are scheduled for you to meet with your student's advisor on **Tuesday, September 5th from 12 pm - 8:00 pm or Wednesday, September 6th from 8 am - 1:00 pm**. Entrance conferences are held **in person** at Dakota Meadows Middle School. We look forward to meeting our students and their families. Please use the link below for conference registration. Select your student's Advisory Teacher name and click submit at the bottom to choose which date and time works best for your schedule. **Click here for the conference schedule and link.**

### **Start Dates**

- The first day of school for all 6th through 8th grade students is **Thursday, September 7th, 2023.**

### **Start and End Times**

- Our school day begins at **8:35 am and ends at 3:25 pm**
- **We will have a new bell schedule.**
- We ask that students not arrive at school prior to 8:10 am and leave campus by 3:35 pm
- Doors to the school will open at 8:10 am

### **Two Hours Early Release**

Two hour early releases will take place on the following dates:

September 20th, 2023. October 11th, 2023. November 8th, 2023. December 13th, 2023. January 10th, 2024. February 14th, 2024. March 13th, 2024. April 17th, 2024. May 15th, 2024.

Your student will start their day at the normal time of 8:35 am and be released at 1:25 pm. They will receive lunch prior to our 1:25 pm dismissal when buses leave the building. Students participating in Varsity Co-curriculars will board the activity bus at 3:25 pm. All other students need to ensure they have transportation home. **Please note that there are no middle school co-curriculars running on early release Wednesdays.**

### **School Pictures**

School pictures will take place here at DMMS **on Wednesday, September 27th, 2023.** Again this year, SportPix of Mankato will be taking photos for us. Please watch your email for more details. **Retakes will be Thursday, November 2nd.**

### **Immunizations**

All 7th grade students must have their required immunizations completed **before** the first day of school, Thursday, September 7th, 2023. This is according to the Minnesota School Immunization law. Please contact our Licensed School Nurse (LSN) Laurel Dorn at 507-382-1136 if you have questions regarding the required immunizations.

**School Supply List** Please click [HERE](#) for the 23-24 DMMS school supply list. This can also be found on our website.

### **Free/Reduced Lunch**

All students are eligible for one free breakfast and lunch per school day under the new Minnesota Free School Meals legislation. We still highly encourage you to fill out the application for Educational Benefits. Please follow [this link](#) for instructions and an application. If you qualify for free or reduced meals your student would be eligible for reduced athletic and activity fees, reduced price internet and more. This also helps with additional teaching and learning funds for DMMS. Extra entrees and cartons of milk will still need to be purchased with money in your lunch account. For additional information, please see the [nutrition services](#) website.

### **Infinite Campus Parent Portal/Census Verification: Must be done to RECEIVE a device**

All parents/guardians will need to have a Parent Portal account in Infinite Campus prior to completing necessary back to school paperwork. All of the Dakota Meadows communication, including report cards, will come through the Infinite Campus Portal. **The Census Verification MUST be completed in Infinite**

**Campus in order for students to receive their chromebooks.** The Census Verification can be found in the parent portal on the left hand side, there is a blue link located towards the bottom.

For families who have not created a Parent Portal account in Infinite Campus, a parent/guardian will need to email [ICSupport@isd77.org](mailto:ICSupport@isd77.org). Please complete this prior to your student's conference on September 5th or 6th. Please email [ICSupport@isd77.org](mailto:ICSupport@isd77.org) if you need assistance.

### **Device Pickup**

Chromebooks will be distributed for 6th graders on Monday, September 11, 2023. Seventh and eighth graders are able to pick up their devices during Open House. Those who have not picked their device during Open House will be able to get them on this day, as well.

### **Cell Phone Expectations**

Students may bring their cell phones and personal electronic devices to school. Cell phones and personal electronic devices may be used before and after school. During the instructional day from 8:35 a.m. to 3:25 p.m., cell phones and personal electronics devices are to be put away and remain out of sight.

**Backpacks** Students will be allowed to carry their backpacks during the school day. PBIS lessons during the first few days of school will teach expectations.

### **Middle School After School Program**

Middle School After School is an after school club program provided by Mankato Area Public Schools' Community Education and Recreation Department, serving youth in grades 6-8. The program offers a variety of interest based clubs and a student union for academic support and recreational opportunities that promote personal growth and academic success. The after school program is available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at DMMS from 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm, and will begin on Monday, September 25th. Students meet each day in the cafeteria at 3:30 pm, and proceed to club activities from there. Fees are assigned to each club or student union opportunity. If you are in need of financial assistance, you may contact our office (507) 387-5501 for further information. Please note: you will need to provide transportation for your student, as this is **NOT PROVIDED** by the district. You **must register** for each day / activity you plan to attend MSAS. Clubs, fees, and schedule will change each quarter or as learning formats change during the 2023-2024 school year. For more information, please go online and visit [www.mankatocer.com](http://www.mankatocer.com). Under the youth tab see Middle School After School to browse the available club options for quarter # 1. You may also call the Mankato Community Education & Recreation Department at 507-387-5501 for more information or registration assistance. Students may use Middle School After School as many days as their schedule allows. Registration fees are based on Quarter # 1 only and will be updated through the year. We look forward to meeting you this fall.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office at (507) 387-5077.

***We Are Here for YOU!***

Aaron Hyer, Principal

Jessica Buttell, Assistant Principal