



Palmerton Area Junior High School

David Sodi, Principal
3529 Fireline Road
Pallmerton, PA 18071

Telephone 610-826-2492
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope everyone is having a great summer; it is amazing how fast summer goes by! I am very excited to begin my first full year as the Principal of the Junior High! The faculty and I have been working very hard to prepare for our incoming students this school year. I am happy to announce that we were able to add an additional ELA teacher and STEM teacher to our faculty over the summer. Please join me in welcoming Miss Holly Skrimcovsky (7th grade ELA) and Mr. William Zeky (STEM) to the Junior high team. We are all very excited to begin the new school year.

Please take note of the information below, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact the Junior High office at 610-826-2492. Please save the date for **Meet the Teachers Night**, Tuesday, September 9th, starting at 6:30pm. Make sure to bring your child's schedule with you that evening. Parents/Guardians are to report to your child's first period class for the start of the program. **Student picture day** is also scheduled for Tuesday, September 9th. To place your order, please visit www.danscamera.com/pictureday. The online access code will be communicated once it becomes available.

Arrival at School:

Our students' first day of school is **Monday, August 25th**. School begins promptly at 7:30 A.M. And dismisses at 2:25 P.M. **All students should report to the gymnasium on the first day to receive their schedules.** They will report to their first period classrooms from the gymnasium.

School Supplies:

Please check the Jr. High page of the District's website for supplies needed for entering 7th or 8th grade.

Breakfast and Lunch:

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to the students on the first day of school. Your child's passcode for the cafeteria is the same one that was used last year. Please note that your child's account balance ... positive or negative ... will also carryover from last year. New students will receive their passcode for the cafeteria on the first day of school. You can have your child bring in a check to apply to their account balance or use the on-line service to add funds to their account. If you want to get a jump on things, please do this now. The cost for breakfast at the secondary level is \$1.40 and the secondary lunch is \$3.25. Milk is 55¢. Because it is a paid lunch, please remember to complete the free and reduced lunch form if appropriate. Free and reduced lunch applications are available on the District's website. Please keep in mind that these forms do not carry over from year to year. You must reapply every year.

Student Handbook:

There have been a number of changes to the Student Handbook. Please review that book with your child(ren). A form to sign acknowledging that you and your child(ren) have received and read the Student Handbook will be sent home with your child(ren) on the first day of school.

Transportation:

George's Busing provides our transportation. Please check the Times News and/or our District website for your child's bus schedule. Also, please remind your child that riding the school bus is a privilege, and they are expected to be on their best behavior while at the bus stop and riding the school bus. Bus riding privileges can be revoked for misbehavior on the school bus if necessary.

Student Lockers:

All students will be assigned lockers for which they are responsible during their time in the Junior High. Lockers are to be used for storage of personal clothes, books, and those items that are necessary for school activities. Please do not put stickers, inside or outside, on your lockers. Leave expensive clothing, possessions, and money at home---NOT in your lockers! **Students need to provide combination/key locks.** Do not give the combination/key to other students and keep the locker locked at all times. Spare keys should be kept at home. **Do not share your locker!** The school cannot be held responsible for items that are lost or stolen. Lockers are the property of the Palmerton Area School District and are subject to search. Whenever school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains material which poses a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, student lockers may be searched. This may include the removal of the student's lock. At the end of the school year, students should remove the locks and all items from their lockers

Cell Phones:

I realize that we live in a very technological society. I also understand that as parents, we feel better when we are able to communicate with our children at a moments' notice. That being said, cell phones are also a major disruption to the educational process. It is our expectation that while students are in the classroom, their cell phones will be turned off and will be out of sight. The only exception is if there is a specific educational purpose approved by the teacher. Classroom use must be authorized by the teacher. Each teacher will have their own cell phone / electronic device rules and regulations that they will share with the students as well as the parents / guardians. A teacher is definitely permitted to prohibit cell phones and electronic devices during instruction, if that works for their classroom. If you have any questions, please see School Board policy #237.

Paperwork:

On the first day of school, a great deal of paperwork will be sent home with the students. It would be much appreciated if you promptly read and sign the appropriate documents. As you complete this paperwork, please make sure that you note all of the appropriate contact information. We really need accurate contact information. If any of your telephone numbers or email addresses should change during the school year, please let us know.

I look forward to working with your children and helping them to have a wonderful school year! Please make sure they bring their fully charged chromebook to school with them on the first day. If you have any questions before the new school year begins, please contact the school office at 610-826-2492.

Sincerely,



David Sodl
Principal - Palmerton Area Junior High School