

MIDDLE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Summer 2019

Can you believe that summer is more than halfway over?!?!?! I am sure that there are both celebrations and groans. We welcome our new families and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide an overview of upcoming events for middle school students and their families. Please understand that there may be times when additional information will need to go out as well. Be sure to check email and text messages regularly. A friendly reminder for all families that Google Classroom and PowerSchool are vital communication tools for your child's success. If you need help accessing either (after the first week of school), please reach out to me (corrigan.rutherford@psaschool.org) or Jennifer Hildebrand (jen.hildebrand@psaschool.org) as soon as possible.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: As your child embarks on their journey through middle school, school supplies become more flexible. Most classes allow students to develop an organization system to meet his/her needs. Specific school supplies may be shared after the beginning of school. The following school supplies are standard and will get your child started for the school year:

- A minimum of four 1- inch binders with dividers
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- Numerous pens and pencils
- 2-3 journal type notebooks (single subject or composition)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Colored pencils
- A minimum of 500 Index cards (need for Latin, Spanish, and studying)
- **Band students: black 3-ring binder**

CALLING FOR EVIDENCE OF SUMMER FUN! Please send any summer pictures (trips, reading, playing video games, crafts/activities, sleeping) to corrigan.rutherford@psaschool.org. Pictures should be of PSA MS students engaging in fun, school-appropriate activities to be showcased on one our bulletin boards. Pictures must be received by July 25. Thank you in advance!

- **Assessment Results:** All results for incoming student assessments should be received by Friday, July 19. Please reach out on Monday, July 22 if you have not received results.
- **Schedule for 2019-2020**
A Days (Maroon) = Mondays and Wednesdays
B Days (Navy) = Tuesdays and Thursdays
Rotating Days = Fridays
- **Cyber Defense:** Teams from PSA will be competing in Cyber Patriot, but the primary focus will be PCDC 2020. This is an interactive competition where the competitors try to defend their systems and network from an active hacker attack. Be sure to reach out to Fred Durand at cyberdefense@psaschool.org for more information. Middle school students are encouraged to participate on one of the following teams:

- **Gold Team** - As the builders, we will focus on creating servers that have known vulnerabilities that can be exploited. We will also build a game that the teams will play as well as score boards and traffic monitors. This team is available to any grade level.
- **White Team** - This team runs the event, scores the teams, and determines the ultimate winners. This team is available to any grade level.
- **Blue Team** - team that defends the servers and network and plays the game. This team is available to any grade level.
- **Middle School Robotics:** If you are interested in Robotics, be sure to contact Brian Hamilton at msrobotics@psaschool.org. More information will be shared at the beginning of the school year.
- **Odyssey of the Mind:** We are looking forward to a new chapter of OM. This is a program that creatively solves problems in a team approach. More information about the program can be found [here](#). Ms. Thomas and Mrs. Rutherford plan on revisiting this program based on student interest. Be sure to email corrigan.rutherford@psaschool.org if you are interested in participating.
- **Career Day 2020:** We know it is early, but planning has already started for our Career Day on February 5, 2020. This is an important day for our students to be exposed to a variety of career options. Please consider volunteering for this day ([sign up here](#)). If you are not able to do so, please share this [flier](#) with friends, family, and employers. A couple of things to consider:
 - You can inspire, inform, and educate children in your community about important real-life decisions and opportunities.
 - Building relationships with today's youth is both rewarding and gets you in touch with the talent pool in your area.
 - As a PSA parent, you can satisfy your volunteer hours by speaking at our career day.
- **Beard of Plenty:** As you are shopping for back to school items, please consider picking up items for our Beard of Plenty. This is a program within PSA that provides school-related items and snacks to students in need. Suggestions include: binders, index cards, individually wrapped healthy snacks, travel size personal hygiene products, etc. Items may be dropped off to the front office.
- **August 3rd:** Middle School Game Night, 6-8p.
- **August 8th:** Back to School Night, 6-7p.
- **August 14th:** First day of school!

6th grade

November 4-6, sixth graders will be heading to Camp Kanuga! Stay tuned for updates on the trip. Any questions may be directed to jessica.mcquatters@psaschool.org.

7th grade

October 21-23, seventh graders will be heading to Camp Thunderbird! Stay tuned for updates on the trip. Any questions may be directed to terra.poetzsch@psaschool.org.

SC Law requires all 7th grade students to have one (1) dose of Tdap vaccine. The Tdap vaccine, which protects students from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis, should be administered before the first day of 7th grade.

New for the 2019-2020 school year - 7th grade has been added to the requirement for three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. You may find the letter from DHEC [here](#).

Be sure to send documentation of updates by dropping off a copy in the office, via fax at 843-300-4123 or by emailing the nurse at rachel.crafton@psaschool.org.

8th grade

There is still room on the D.C. trip in October. Click [HERE](#) to view the registration letter for sign up information. If you have additional questions, please contact Mrs. Rutherford at corrigan.rutherford@psaschool.org.