



Horizon Middle School

"The Sky's the Limit"

WE ARE CVSD!

Principal's E-News
October 7, 2011

Greetings Horizon Families— I am very pleased with the progress our students have made thus far. They are showing diligence and responsibility for their academics and behaviors. There is one area in the school that you could remind your child about, and that is the cafeteria. Our expectations for them are similar to what you would ask at home or a fast food restaurant when you go out. Clean up your plate/tray and garbage. If you spill, do your best to clean that up as well. A reminder to them from home this weekend would be appreciated.

On the plus side, several substitute teachers have mentioned to me in the past few weeks how "nice" our students are. They complimented them on their respectful attitude toward guests in our building. That is the true measure of character—to do the right thing even when their regular teacher isn't watching. Please pass along this compliment to your child as well.

We are coming up on Middle School Conference Week. See the early dismissal dates and times below. Our format for fall conferences will be similar to last year in that your child will have a portfolio to review with you in the cafeteria and then you will be able to meet with teachers in an "Arena" format located in the gym. Today, your student will be bringing home a complete Parent Letter and Arena Conference Sign-up. You will be asked to submit a range of time you would like to come in. This allows us to spread the flow of traffic over the course of the three days and late evening on October 20th. Your attendance at conference time will provide you with a closer look at the academic expectations for your child. You will also have a chance to check in with any teachers you have questions for.

Mr. Hardt

EARLY DISMISSAL FOR CONFERENCE WEEK

October 18, 19, 20 & 21 school will be dismissed at 12:30 PM for conferences. Monday, October 17th, is a regular school day.

PROGRESS REPORTS—Students will be bringing home their progress reports next Friday, October 14th. They will also be posted to the online system for parent access. A copy of the progress report will also be available in your student's conference portfolio.

PTA News

PTSA—Please join us! **Our General PTA Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10th, at 6:30 PM in the library.** Connie Mott, School Counselor, and Ty Larsen, Assistant

Principal, will be there to provide useful tips for success for **ALL** 6th, 7th and 8th grade parents. Also discussed, will be upcoming events such as the Medieval 7th grade Feast—what it is and what we need to make it a great event. And let's not forget the Harvest with the Hawks.

Spirit Wear: You have until Sunday, October 9th, to get your Horizon Spirit Wear. Please check out our website at www.horizonmpta.com under the "forms" section.

Horizon Spirit Wear Available

IMMUNIZATIONS Parents—if you have not updated your child's immunization records here at school, you will need to do so as soon as possible. State law requires all students to be immunized and records to be up to date at the school. The law also states that students may be **EXCLUDED** from attending classes for the purpose of reducing the chances of spreading a contagious illness. We will be sending a reminder letter to parents of students that we do not have updated immunizations during the coming week. If you have questions, please call our school nurse Jeannie Dowling at 228-4947.



Electronic communication - A great innovation to make our lives easier and more efficient. At the same time, it can create serious problems. Many of our students use cell phones, facebook, myspace, or other social media to electronically communicate with one another. It is easy to message their way into a bad situation. Though not always the school's responsibility, we often become involved with many of the cyber problems our students encounter as they disrupt educational operations. We must continue to work together as a community, to make sure our children understand how to use these innovations in an appropriate manner.



Horizon Middle School collects BOX TOPS! **October 10-25 is collection time!** Bring in any box tops you have so our school receives credit. Did you know that Avery computer paper has a box top on each package? If you know of someone's office that uses this paper, ask them if they would kindly save them for our school. Bring your box tops to school and deposit them in the box outside the office.

Counselor's Corner

by Connie Mott

Parent involvement is the key to school success for your student. There are many ways parents can be involved in your student's education. One good way is by asking questions about what they learned daily. Showing interest in your child's academics and progress reinforces the importance of school. Listen and talk with your child about what is happening in school and communicate with the school if you have any questions or concerns. Helping your child to be **responsible** for their learning will in fact help them to be more successful.

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 10—General PTA Meeting 6:30 PM—**GET THE 411!**
- Oct. 11—8th Grade & JV Softball @ Horizon 3:30 PM
- Oct. 11—7th Grade Softball @ Greenacres 3:30 PM
- Oct. 13—MW Football @ North Pines 3:30 PM
- Oct. 13—LW Football @ Horizon 3:30 PM
- Oct. 13—JV Softball @ Horizon 3:30 PM
- Oct. 13—Cross Country vs. North Pines @ Mission Park 4:00 PM
- Oct. 14—High 5 Corn Maze
- Nov. 1—Internet Safety Parent Night @ Bowdish 6:30-8:30 PM



October RESPONSIBILITY

Being accountable, the pursuit of excellence, and the exercise of self-control

Horizon Middle School

Student Portfolio Presentation & Arena Conference

Parents,

The school year has been moving swiftly and it's time to take a closer look at your student's learning. Student involved conferences will be held **October 18th-20th**. During that week students will be dismissed from school at 12:30 to allow time for teachers to meet with students and parents. Most preliminary assessments are complete and classes are beginning to get deeper into the content that will carry throughout the year. Now is the time to see where the class is headed and how you can be a part of your student's learning. The intent of student-involved conferences is for students to begin taking ownership for their learning. This is just the beginning of a progression that will help your student understand what they need to do to achieve academic success.

PART 1 (Portfolio Presentations):

Students will utilize our cafeteria to present their portfolio to parents. The portfolio should contain evidence of learning in each class, assessment data for your student, and an information sheet from each of your student's teachers. The intent of the presentation is for students to communicate their progress and to bring about questions to be addressed during the arena format.

PART 2 (Arena Format Conference):

All teachers will be available in the lower gym. You and your student will have the opportunity to meet with any and all of your student's teachers. Bring the portfolio and any questions or comments you have for teachers. ***Keep in mind that teachers do not have scheduled time slots and will be available sporadically.***

Parents and students who already met with specific teachers may not have a need to take advantage of the arena time; however, the time is still open to meet with other teachers. This arena time is intended to allow for informal conversations, of 5-10 minutes, with teachers. If more time is necessary to meet with teachers, please fill out a form for time on another conference day.

If you have questions, please contact us at 228-4940.

We look forward to the opportunity to share in your student's academic excellence!

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