

Constantine Middle School

"A Place for Growing"

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Greetings!

I hope that you had a fun, relaxing summer break. As we begin preparing for the 2009-2010 school year, I wanted to pass along information to make the first few days of school less stressful for students and parents.

OPEN HOUSE/FIRST DAY: This year, the Middle School Open House is scheduled for the first **full** day of school, Wednesday, September 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This will allow you to meet your child's teachers and tour the building. Several of the teachers have changed rooms in our efforts to keep grade-level classes together. Students will receive their schedules and lockers on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 8. Staff will be available throughout the building to direct students to their distribution points where they will receive this information. A copy of the distribution points for students and a map are enclosed.

PLEASE NOTE: Enclosed is the **Student Information Form** for your child. Please complete/correct the form and **return it with your student on the first day of school.** This information is very important. It allows us to take care of your child when the need arises with important contact, health, and emergency information. **ALSO** – if there have been changes in your student's immunizations, please provide that information to the Middle School Office with the Student Information Form.

SUPPLIES: Parents interested in purchasing supplies for their students may visit our website at www.constps.org where a list is provided.

HANDBOOK UPDATES: Parents and students are also encouraged to view the handbook on-line prior to the beginning of school. This is also available on the website. If you have plans to purchase back-to-school clothing, I encourage you to read the section of the handbook that addresses the dress code. Clothing should be appropriate for a positive learning environment and not cause a distraction to the classroom. We encourage individuality; however, we are trying to instill workplace behaviors and dress to prepare our students for their futures. We ask that you keep this in mind as you shop.

Another section of the handbook that should be carefully reviewed is the cell phone policy. In recent years, cell phones have become a nuisance in school. Students are not to use their cell phones during the day. If they need to call home, they should do so from the office. Texting has become a serious problem and, in many instances, has involved cheating on assignments and bullying. Students need to turn their phones off at the start of the day and leave them in their lockers. If a student is assigned a locker that does not lock correctly, they are encouraged to leave them in the office in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day. Many of the teachers also offer to keep student cell phones for safekeeping during the day.

CHARACTER EDUCATION: This year, CMS staff has developed a character education/positive behavior support program for the entire building. We want to recognize our students who demonstrate positive behavior. This building-wide initiative is designed to encourage appropriate behavior and to establish clear expectations for classrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria.

STAFF CHANGES: We welcome new staff again this year. With Mr. Sutton's retirement this fall, Mr. Christopher Albrecht is the new eighth grade math teacher. He comes to Constantine from Whitefish Township Schools in the Upper Peninsula. We also wish Mrs. Kristy Barkley the best in her transfer to Riverside Elementary. We are in the process of hiring a teacher to fill her position. Mrs. Suzanne Malone has moved on to the high school to begin a new program for the district. We know that she will be a wonderful addition to the high school special education program. Mrs. Alexandra McCullough, our part-time English teacher last year, becomes a full-time eighth grade English teacher this year with Mr. Thelen's transfer to the high school. We are also pleased to announce the arrival of a new St. Joseph County ISD Level V-E program to be housed at the Middle School. This program will provide additional services to area students.

SCHEDULING INFORMATION: In an effort to provide the best learning environment with the most opportunities for students, Constantine Middle School has returned to semester schedules with seven class periods. This means that students schedules change only once during the year instead of twice, and they have more class offerings. Parents can expect to receive progress reports or report cards every four to five weeks. This will allow you to stay apprised of your student's progress in his classes. We also encourage you to access PowerSchool where you can review current grades and communicate with teachers.

Please note in the schedule listed below the changes for the start/end times. This change aligns us more closely with the high school times and means that students will spend less time sitting on the bus or standing outdoors in the inclement weather.

Daily Schedule:

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Period 1 – 7:47 – 8:40

Period 2 – 8:44 – 9:37

Period 3 – 9:41 – 10:34

Period 4 – 10:38 – 11:31

Period 5 – 11:34 – 1:01

Period 6 – 1:05 – 1:58

Period 7 – 2:02 – 2:55

First Lunch – 11:34 – 12:04

Second Lunch – 12:31 – 1:01

We're looking forward to a great school year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. The Middle School has an outstanding group of students, parents, teachers, and staff, and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of your child's learning experience.

Sincerely,

Jean Logan, Principal