



Parent Newsletter

Andover Middle School

September 6

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK
MR. BRETT WHITE

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To the families who have not previously had a student at Andover Middle School - welcome to AMS! To those families who are returning - it is great to have you back! The 2011-2012 school year is off to an awesome start. It was once said that the greatest of journeys begins with but a single step. The staff of Andover Middle School believes that the journey through middle school is one that is exciting, adventurous, and worthwhile.

We believe our school has a great facility, a family atmosphere, a team approach, and a commitment to doing what is best for all students. We strive to create a culture and climate at AMS that is positive and solution-oriented. Our staff is a wonderful group of people who make a difference each and every day for students.

Our mission at AMS (what we are all about) is to assist students in:

- Achieving academic excellence
- Maximizing individual potential &
- Succeeding as life-long learners

Over the years, our staff has worked to create a vision that we have for AMS. Our vision is how we will achieve our mission. Here it is:

- Teaching with high expectations to ensure success
- Role models who support and motivate students
- Opportunities to maximize potential
- Joining together to form social and communication skills
- Academic excellence for ALL students
- Never accepting failure as an option
- Safe, positive learning environment

Mr. Jones, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

What a great start to the 2011-2012 school year. This is my 15th year as an AD and I have never seen such a hot August. I want to say thanks to the parents for making arrangements to get your student to morning and late evening practices. I know that sometimes sports disrupts the family flow.

The week of August 29th – September 3rd, football, volleyball, and girls' tennis will begin competitive play with cross country starting the following week. The players and coaches have been working hard and are anxious to get underway. With the start of our fall seasons we need to remember to practice good sportsmanship on and off the field. We have both a responsibility and obligation to represent our community, school, and teams in a positive manner. In addition, we need to stress that academics come before athletics. We are students first and athletes second.

A few parent reminders:

- ◆ Remind your student athletes to drink plenty of water as the temperatures have been hot. Hydration is very important.
- ◆ Fall athletic pictures are scheduled for Monday Sept. 12th at 2:00.
- ◆ **Please remember to sign your student-athlete out at all away games.**

Let's have a great school year!!

Go Trojans



Go Trojans

Continued from Mr. White, pg. 1

To accomplish our mission, and for our vision to become reality, we need your help. Don't hesitate to give us a call if you have questions, concerns, or ideas. One of the most valuable ways that parents can become involved in our school is through AMSPO, the Andover Middle School Parent Organization. This group does many wonderful things for our school. Amy Windholz & JoAnn Wreath are Co-Presidents for AMSPO and can get you involved. If interested, contact our office at 218-4610 and we will get your names to Amy and JoAnn. The first AMSPO meeting of the year is on Tuesday, September 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the AMS Commons. All are invited to attend.

Best wishes for a wonderful year. We look forward to seeing you at the concerts, games, and school events.

Important Parent Information

Pre-planned vacation time

If your student is going to be gone more than two days, the office has a form that must be filled out at least 5 days prior to the absence and approved by Mr. White. As soon as the form is approved, the office will issue a homework sheet to your child to take to his or her teachers for homework collection.

Transportation policy

Our policy at Andover Middle School regarding riding the bus home with another student requires a written permission from BOTH sets of parents. This may be in the form of an e-mail or a handwritten note. We asked that the students turn in the notes BEFORE lunch-time so that they can be processed before the rush at the end of the day. We do not want any student to miss the bus waiting on us to process their paperwork!

Attendance

When students arrive late to school, they are to check in at the office to receive their tardy pass for their first hour class. The student handbook, which is included in the agenda book, clarifies what is classified as excused tardies and excused absences.

Deliveries

Because the AMS staff understands the importance of classroom focus, deliveries and messages are given out during the lunch hour except for emergencies.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not acceptable in the school setting and should not be used in the building. There is a phone available for students' use in the office. Please take note of AMS policy regarding noncompliance and the consequences that will be given:

- 1st offence - 1 conduct point taken, phone returned to the student at the end of day
- 2nd offence - 2nd point taken, parent to pick up phone
- 3rd offence - Student will serve a 30 minute detention and parent to pick up phone
- Each time after that - Student will serve an *additional* 30 minute detention and parent to pick up phone.

Newsletter



Please feel free to pick up a copy in the AMS office or check it out on the district website: www.usd385.org. on the AMS link.

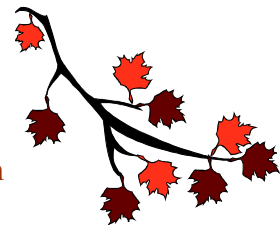


COUNSELOR'S CORNER

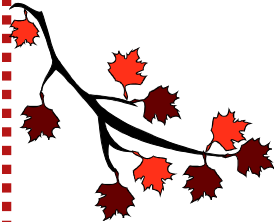
The WEB Program

AMS is fortunate to have the WEB Program as part of the orientation and transition program for sixth graders. By now, **sixth graders** have met with and gotten to know their WEB leaders and the other students in their WEB group.

WEB stands for Where Everybody Belongs and is a nationwide program whose sole purpose is to help sixth graders feel more comfortable as well as helps them achieve success in their first year of middle school. It welcomes and supports the students by assigning them an 8th grade WEB leader as a mentor during this first year. These leaders were selected from a large pool of applicants and have met the qualifications of being a good role model and a positive leader at AMS.



Throughout the year, sixth graders will meet with their WEB leaders at planned activities such as WEB lunches where they sit in their WEB groups at lunch and do fun activities; after school social events (optional) – first one planned for Oct. 28 from 3:00 – 4:15 – where students participate in a variety of games and projects. WEB leaders will also check in from time to time to see how things are going for their group and they will have an Edmodo login for the group to communicate about events and school topics. Your child will also hear mini-lessons once a month (teachers take turns hosting the lessons) from the WEB leaders on topics such as study skills, time management, sportsmanship, and ways to deal with peer pressure.



The WEB program culminates with an ice cream social in May. If you have any questions on the WEB Program, please don't hesitate to contact Stacey Ryan or Amber Ingram for details.



NURSE'S CORNER

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a great summer.

Remember, no medications may be given without a signed medication sheet from the parent and doctor. Please do not send medication to school with your student to take without this document. If you think your student will need over-the-counter medication this year, please have them stop in the nurse's office to pick up a form. You may have the doctor's office fax it back to us with a signature to 733-4165.

Please remember to keep your student home until 24 hours after starting an antibiotic for an infection. They also must stay home until they are fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea-free for 24 hours without medication.

Remember that the best defense against getting sick is frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds. Most people have been exposed to the flu-like illnesses that are in the community, so it is important to do what we can to stay healthy. This includes proper diet with plenty of water and getting enough sleep, both of which are a challenge for middle-school students.

Please have your student eat breakfast every day to help avoid mid-morning headaches and stomachaches. Also, please do not send energy drinks to school with your student.

Call the office if you have any contact information changes. Also check to make sure we have current emergency notification information in case we are unable to reach parents.

Have a fabulous fall and please call the health office if you have any questions or concerns.

Your AMS Nurses,

Tami Cairns RN

Barb Trekell RN

Lisa Henneke Health Clerk

