

July 22, 2014

Parents, Guardians, and Students of Seymour Middle School,

With the start of the 2014-2015 academic year just days away, please allow me to be the first to welcome you to the new school year. We look forward to: greeting the Class of 2021 to SMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Class, receiving the Class of 2020 to the 7/8 building as seventh graders, and issuing to the Class of 2019 the challenge of assuming their role as our school leaders.

Since the fall of 2009, SMS has been a school of dynamic and purposeful school improvement initiatives. The opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center (2009), the advent of our Positive Behavior Systems student reward program (2010), the implementation of a school-wide dress code (2011), our iCAN campaign (2012), and our iLEAD campaign (2013) are all indicative of the sustained commitment we share in providing every student the opportunity to reach his/her full potential academically and socially. We view *this* time in your education as not simply transitional, but critical. We believe that you are a “leading” factor in what continues to be a very special time in the history of your middle school.

To get us started this year, I would draw your attention to the enclosed forms.

1) The first item you will notice is your student’s schedule. *This schedule is the schedule that your student will follow during the first day of school.*

In the days leading up to the start of school, we would invite you to come in to your student’s respective school to become familiar with his/her building and to find classrooms. You should feel free to walk his/her daily class schedule. The middle schools are open from 8am-4pm daily, and we would only ask that you stop by the main office to make us aware that you are in the building. **Please Note:** Both the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center and SMS 7/8 will be closed during the first teacher days of Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, (prior to the back-to-school open house events scheduled for that evening) and Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to make it a practice of regularly visiting our school’s website throughout the school year. On our website you can find the following: daily announcements, school activities, access to your student’s homework assignments, information regarding your child’s attendance, discipline and grades, and weekly blogs from staff (posted each Monday morning for the week). Our direct school website can be found at [www.scsc.k12.in.us/SMS/index.htm](http://www.scsc.k12.in.us/SMS/index.htm)

Available for your consideration now, on your student’s teachers’ web pages, is your student’s class supply list information. (For students without internet access, class supply lists can also be obtained at the main office of either middle school.)

As briefly mentioned above, our scheduled **Back-to-School Night** for both middle school buildings will be the evening of **Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the first opportunity for you to see and meet your teachers and to look inside your new classrooms.

**SMS 7/8:** SMS 7/8 will be open from 6:00pm-7:30pm. A brief orientation will be held in the main cafeteria at 6:30pm for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, new students to SMS 7/8 and parents. At the orientation we will provide information regarding daily building procedures and day-to-day pick-up and drop-off protocols.

**SMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center:** Due to parking as well as cafeteria capacity restrictions, and to help us accommodate all the sixth grade students and their parents on this evening, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center (6GC) Back-to-School event will be according to the following academic team schedule.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
4:30PM-5:30PM	Explorers Team	Mrs. Kleber, Mrs. McCorry, Mr. Mahl, Mrs. Miller
5:35-5:55PM (Orientation #1)	Explorers Team/Super Stars	Mr. McClure, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Nicholson
6:00PM-7:00PM	Super Stars Team	Mrs. Franklin, Mr. Owen, Mrs. Clay
7:05-7:25PM (Orientation #2)	Super Stars/Dream Team	Mr. McClure, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Nicholson
7:30PM-8:30PM	Dream Team	Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Schepman, Mr. McCarthy

An orientation program will be held in the cafeteria at 5:35PM, with a repeat orientation at 7:05PM, to provide 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents with important school information regarding school activities, sports, school rules and expectations (homework and the “Three R’s”), lunch, and the 6GC day-to-day pick-up and drop-off procedures. Attending your child’s orientation program as scheduled in accordance with your child’s team will help to alleviate overcrowding in the cafeteria. Thank you.

Classes will start for both middle school buildings on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. On our first day, all students are to report to their respective P.R.I.D.E. (homeroom) by 8:30AM (for SMS 7/8 students they will report to their P.R.I.D.E. rooms first before reporting to period 1). 6GC students will receive their assigned locker at that time. Students are reminded to bring a pen or pencil and paper on the first school day.

The opportunity to pay for your child’s book rental fees will be available at the time of the Back-to-School night. 2014-2015 fees:

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$ 124.20
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$ 131.74
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (with Algebra I)	\$ 141.92
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (with Algebra Concepts or Pre-Algebra)	\$ 139.54

There will also be an opportunity to make initial deposits into student lunch accounts for those wishing to do so.

2) The second enclosed item is a copy of the middle school dress code policy. On the reverse side you will find a copy of our cell phone policy. Although these policies do appear in your child’s agenda, we wanted you to be aware of our expectation for student dress and cell phone use prior to the start of school.

At SMS we believe that: all are capable of learning, effort increases achievement, and everyone shares a responsibility for success. We made our school’s first belief, “all are capable of learning,” our focus for our 2012-2013 “iCAN” campaign. We made our school’s second belief, “effort increases achievement,” our focus for our 2013-2014 “iLEAD” campaign. While we will continue to embrace these beliefs in 2014-2015, we will expand our focus. Our third school belief, “everyone shares a responsibility for success,” will be our new target for this year’s “i” theme! (More information to come! ☺)

We are eagerly anticipating the learning and exploring that lies ahead in the coming year. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share in these moments with you!



Mr. McClure  
Principal