

Summer, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians of a Middle School Student:

The middle school staff is looking forward to working with you and your middle school student during the next school year. Please take the time to review the documents posted for middle school families on the Benchmark School website (www.benchmarkschool.org), including some information that needs to be returned to school and some policies and procedures that we would like you to review with your child prior to the beginning of school.

Enclosed are the following: summer reading assignments for your child, a list of the students who will be in your child's language arts class, and the names of the teachers for the language arts class. Please be sure your child knows about these important documents – some of this information is new and was not available to your child when we met in June!

Please note some important dates for the beginning of the year:

- School begins for students on **Tuesday, September 6th. Their day lasts from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
- Middle school students will attend school from **8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, September 6th, Wednesday, September 7th, Thursday, September 8th, and Friday, September 9th.
- If you need to review summer reading assignments, you can check your child's assignment on my teacher web page at <http://teacherweb.com/PA/Benchmark/DrGensemer>

The first week of school in the Middle School provides a unique opportunity for your child to begin the school year in the best manner possible. Our experience working with middle school students suggests that students in middle school are most successful when they have time to process and practice information and procedures. Thus, we have developed a schedule for the first week of school that provides students with opportunities to focus on what the year will be like for them, to begin to set some goals, and to have time for socialization. The schedule for the first week of school is as follows:

Tuesday, September 6th – 8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Students will spend the morning in their language arts classes. They should bring laptops if they have them, their binders and other school supplies (see the supplies list for each middle school year), and their summer reading assignments. We will have some activities to help students meet one another, and we will provide pizza and water for lunch. Dismissal will be at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 7th - 8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This day offers students an opportunity to get to know teachers in their content area classes and to participate in some orientation activities. Students should bring a lunch to school on this day, and will

need their laptops and their binders and other supplies. They should also bring their summer reading book *Seedfolks*. Dismissal will be at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 8th and Friday, September 9th - 8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Students will attend all of their classes. All students should bring a lunch to school on these days.

Dismissal will be at 1:00 p.m.

We have designed the first week to help students start the year on a positive note. It is essential that all students be present for all of the first week's activities. We appreciate your help in getting students to school on time so that they don't miss anything. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Eleanor W. Gensemer, Ed. D.

Head of Middle School

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NOTE: The Benchmark Office will be closed from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6th due to a staff meeting.