

SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS

August 27, 2010

SOUTH LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

21621 California
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
Richard Norsigian – Principal
(586) 435-1300
(586) 778-3151 Fax

Dear Parents:

I hope your summer has been safe, enjoyable, and relaxing. Probably “farthest” from your thoughts...or not... is the start of school at 7:40 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7th. It is a half day for our students, with dismissal at 10:55 a.m. But, since it is nearing, I would like to share some information with you.

Our staff is very eager to welcome our students to a year full of exciting programs that challenge our kids academically and socially. Along with our core and exploratory classes, we will continue to enrich our 8th grade curriculum with Honors Global Studies/Mandarin, Career Economics, Honors Algebra, and full year Spanish courses. The 7th grade will be enhanced with Honors Global Studies/Mandarin or Spanish, Honors Math, Forces in Motion, Economics/Personal Finance, and yearlong Spanish classes. The 6th grade will be augmented with Honors Global Studies/Mandarin or Spanish, Honors Math, and Forensics.

For all students needing additional skills development, we offer MARS Reading and Math as well as core subject collaborative classes. Data from the last six years shows that these classes have indeed raised our students’ academic achievement level. The accelerated and skills enrichment programs provide additional opportunities for students to become challenged, successful learners in our global society.

I am also pleased to welcome Rui Zhai from China who will be teaching Mandarin. Rui brings with her expertise as well as experience as an educator in the subject area. I am also delighted to welcome Chris Rinehart, one of our district teachers, who will be teaching 7th grade Health and 8th grade Aerobic Fitness; needless to say, Chris is a very caring and dedicated teacher.

By the same token, I would like to extend our appreciation to Mark Lipinski and Todd Myers who leave SLMS to join the SLHS staff . We are sad to have them leave us, but we know that they will be a very positive addition to our High School faculty.

To communicate effectively with our parents, SLMS uses an e-mail parent distribution list, publishes FOCUS ON THE MIDDLE, which is mailed home, and hosts the monthly Parent Koffee Klatch. Also, please check our SLMS web site at www.solake.org for the latest information about our school.

Our parents are always welcome at SLMS; in fact, we encourage you to visit at any time and participate in activities for the good of our students. Personally, I always enjoy visiting with parents and sharing in your ideas about our children and school. Only together can we make a difference for our kids and enable them to be successful achievers.

Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation and I look forward to greeting our kids on September 7th and you, our parents, throughout the school year.

Cordially,

Richard Norsigian
Principal

(continued)

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SLMS GENERAL INFORMATION

1st Day Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 7th, school will be in session in the morning only, 7:40 – 10:55 a.m. Doors will open at 7:40 a.m.; students are to proceed directly to the gym for orientation. Our staff will welcome our students, review the day's events, and pass out class schedules. Students will then proceed to their first hour class, follow an abbreviated schedule to meet their teachers, learn about their classes, and tour the building. Dismissal will be at 10:55 a.m.

WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) 6th Grade Orientation

SLMS will host an Orientation for all 6th grade students, Wednesday, Sept. 1st, 9:00 a.m. until noon. This initial WEB Orientation will help our 6th graders get to know each other; they will participate in team building activities and be partnered with an 8th grade "big" brother/sister to help and mentor them during the school year. A pizza lunch will be provided. The WEB Program provides an excellent means for their transition to middle school.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up Safety Procedure

Students are to be dropped off before school and picked up after school in the east parking lot by the gym and cafeteria. Cars are to enter the east lot, circle around the parking spots to the gym and cafeteria doors, drop off or pick up students, and exit the lot. Students can also be dropped off or picked up on Maxine, but only on the same side of the street as our school. **For their safety, under no circumstances are students to be dropped off or picked up on California or in the Staff Parking Lot, west side of the building. Student detentions are issued for not following this safety procedure.**

Enclosures

Enclosed is a packet of information which includes the following for you to review.

1. Enrollment/Emergency Data Sheet - Please update all information and return it by Sept. 8th.
2. Sex Education Health Letter
3. Bus Transportation

Administration of Medication Permission Forms

The Permission to Administer Medication Form is available in the office if you need one. This form applies to students who need to receive medication while at school. Medication must accompany the form. This includes any aspirin, Tylenol, prescription or over the counter drugs. We do not dispense medication unless your student has his/her own at school which we keep locked in our office. After completion of the form please return it to the main office along with the medication. **Medications must be in their original container.**

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

Forms for Free/Reduced Lunch can be completed on line at www.solake.org or are available in the SLMS office.

Athletics

All fall sports teams will meet during the first week of school. Coaches will make announcements during that week regarding tryouts and meetings. Students interested in participating on a team or who plan on participating in our intramural program must have a current physical on file for the year. Physical forms

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are available in our office or from the coaches. Fall sports include 7th and 8th grades girls' basketball and 7th and 8th grades football.

Important Phone Numbers

The main office number is 586-435-1300. To report absences, call the 24-hour attendance hotline 586-435-1350.

Student Picture Day

Picture Day is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 16th. Info packets will be distributed as soon as we receive them.

Curriculum Night/ Partnering with Parents Ice Cream Social

Our Curriculum Night/Partnering with Parents Social is set for Thursday, Sept. 9th at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. You will receive more information regarding this in September. We encourage you to attend and learn first hand about your child's learning experience and daily schedule and later socialize with our staff.

Parent Koffee Klatch I

Our first Parent Koffee Klatch is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Thereafter, Koffee Klatches will be held one day (to be determined at the first one) each month, with one scheduled in the morning and a second in the evening of that same day. The Koffee Klatches are a maximum of one hour in length. We urge all of our parents to participate.

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