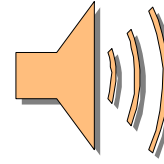


From the Desk of Greg Mason
Principal
Murray Language Academy
Hola-Konnichi Wa-Bonjour - Ni Hao



October 25, 2016

Dear Parents:

High School Planning

We are committed to supporting our 8th grade students during this high school application period. Our website (<http://www.murray.cps.edu/hs-plan.html>) is updated with lots of documents from the CPS Office of Access and Enrollment. Additionally, here are some key dates:

- PIN request deadline is November 28, 2016
- Application deadline is December 9, 2016

All of our 8th grade students received their Eligibility Letters. We encourage parents to visit as many high schools as possible during this season. For a calendar of Open House Events, please visit <http://cps.edu/AccessAndEnrollment/Pages/OAECalendar.aspx>. Additional Open Houses can be found at <http://cps.edu/AccessAndEnrollment/Pages/OAE.aspx> under News and Announcements.

The Leader in Me @ Murray

Good people skills, or Life Skills, are essential for adults to have in order to lead successful professional and personal lives. Further, research shows that life skills are teachable and learnable, and there is a nationwide push to include interpersonal (non-cognitive) skills into the curriculum. As part of a five-year grant that started July 2016, our staff received two full days of training on the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, the same leadership training that top leaders around the world have been receiving for years. Our staff also received training on how to implement these *7 Habits* into their curriculum. As reported previously, the process is called *The Leader in Me* (<http://www.theleaderinme.org/>).

Crossing Guard and Stop Sign

53rd and Kenwood is an intersection utilized a great deal by the students at Murray. There is a crossing guard on duty, but the guard's working hours did not previously correlate with our school's start time and end time. Our parent, Ms. S. Robinson, fought to get the crossing guard's hours changed and to have a stop sign installed for the added safety of our students. Ms. Robinson was successful in getting both accomplished! Thank you Ms. Robinson! Ms. Robinson is currently working with the administration on getting new lockers in both buildings.

Official School Start

The school opens at 8:15 a.m. for students who want to have breakfast in the cafeteria. Breakfast is served until 8:40 a.m. On days when the temperature is above 40° Fahrenheit, all students not eating breakfast will be supervised on the playground. On cold (temperature below 40° degrees Fahrenheit), snowy, or rainy days, all students not eating breakfast will be allowed to gather in the gym, starting at 8:15 a.m. All students will be escorted to their classes at 8:45 a.m. Instruction starts at 8:45 a.m.

Student Dismissal at 3:45 p.m.

Please be reminded that our students are dismissed from school at 3:45 p.m. We are concerned about the safety of our children and the number of children remaining on the school grounds and surrounding areas once school has been dismissed. Please note that Murray is unable to provide supervision for students during after-school hours once school has been dismissed and, therefore, cannot assume liability. **Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up at 3:45 p.m. and remind your children to be safe!**

Donation to Murray

Like many large organizations, we consume a significant amount of 8.5 x 11 paper. Please consider donating a ream or two, or even a case, from time to time.

Fall Assessments

Students in grades 3-8 took the fall NWEA math and reading test. (Students in grades K-2 took the math portion of the NWEA.) These NWEA test results give teachers another source of information to monitor and support students' progress over the school year. The students were provided with their scores and set targets with their teachers. This is an important step in supporting our students to meet or exceed their projected growth and attainment targets. The spring test results are the scores that are used for summer school, selective enrollment schools, and promotion. Our objective is to have at least 70% of our students meet or exceed their goal in spring 2017.

Parent Tool Kit and Other Web-based Resources

Posted on our school website (<http://www.murray.cps.k12.il.us/nwea.html>) is an NWEA Parent Tool Kit. The kit contains additional information about NWEA, **and also provides parents with subject-matter websites that are useful for students in all grades.**

NWEA Math and Reading Support

Here are some websites to support students' reading and math skills:

Math

- <https://www.ixl.com/>
- <https://www.tenmarks.com/login>
- <http://www.aplusmath.com/>
- <http://www.mathsisfun.com/index.htm>
- <http://mathsframe.co.uk/>
- <http://www.mathwords.com/>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Reading

- <https://www.abcmouse.com/landing/SEM:GOOG?clid=CJn-qYCz488CFQ-raQod1oUKWQ>
- <http://teachers.cr.k12.de.us/~galgano/dibel2.htm>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://www.storynory.com/>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/game/tools/flash-card-maker>
- <http://www.storylineonline.net/>
- <http://www.timeforkids.com/>
- <http://perpdog.org/>

Student Fee

Like all public schools, we are struggling with cuts in our funding. More than ever, **it is important that parents pay the Activity Fee of \$100, or \$200 for families with two or more students enrolled at Murray.** The Activity Fee was due the first day of school; we hope this friendly reminder prompts you to send the fee to school with your child as soon as possible. The fee covers an array of school functions and supplies for teachers.

Waiver Applications Needed

The new Waiver Application is replacing the Lunch Application used in previous years. Our yearly state allocation of Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) is calculated based on the return rate of this new waiver form. **We need all parents to fill out and return the new Waiver Application to the school by November 4, 2016.** The form can be found on our website (<http://www.murray.cps.edu/>) in the Main Office Door.

Parent Portal

To receive your child's PIN for the Parent Portal, please e-mail parentportalinfo@gmail.com. You will receive the PIN and directions for setting up the account. Additionally, and super important, we use this database of emails to communicate with parents.

The New York Times

Teaching Your Child Emotional Agility

By KJ DELL'ANTONIA OCT. 4, 2016

It's hard to see a child unhappy. Whether a child is crying over the death of a pet or the popping of a balloon, our instinct is to make it better, fast. That's where too many parents get it wrong, says [the psychologist Susan David](#), author of the book "Emotional Agility." Helping a child feel happy again may offer immediate relief for parent and child, but it doesn't help a child in the long term. "How children navigate their emotional world is critical to lifelong success," she said. Research shows that when teachers [help preschoolers learn to manage their feelings in the classroom](#), those children become better problem solvers when faced with an emotional situation, and are better able to engage in learning tasks. In teenagers, "emotional intelligence," or the ability to recognize and manage emotions, is [associated with an increased ability to cope with stressful situations](#) and [greater self-esteem](#). Some research suggests that a lack of emotional intelligence can be used to [predict symptoms of depression and anxiety](#).

Full Article

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/well/family/teaching-your-child-emotional-agility.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FParenting&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=9&pgtype=collection

Upcoming Dates

October 24 th - 29 th	PTO Scholastic Book Fair
October 25 th	LSC Meeting @ 6pm
October 29 th	Annual Community Open House
November 4 th	No school for students
November 5 th	State of the School Address @ 9am
November 9 th	Report Card Pick-up 12pm-6pm
November 9 th	PTO Meeting @ 6pm
November 11 th	Holiday

For a complete listing of all calendar dates, please visit us @ www.murray.cps.k12.il.us

We are Murray! We are one!