



## Murray Language Academy

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**Greg Mason**  
Principal

**Anne Gulley**  
Assistant Principal

September 5, 2016

Greetings Parents:

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome all our returning and new students to the 2016-2017 school year! The staff is excited, prepared and looking forward to the new school year.

The first day of school, **Tuesday, September 6, 2016**, is a very short time away. On this day, the PTO will host its annual First Day Celebration, beginning at 8:15am. Classes will start immediately following the rally.

### **New for 2016-2017:**

- **New staff** – **Ms. Gulley** (Assistant Principal); **Ms. Spector** (Spanish); **Ms. Prinz** (1<sup>st</sup> Grade); **Ms. T. Williams** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade math and science); **Ms. Guerrero** (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade reading and writing); and **Ms. King** (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade mathematics).
- **Principal and AP Chat—Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.**
- **The Leader in Me** – Murray received a 2016 [LEADER.ORG](http://www.theleaderinme.org/) grant to implement *The Leader in Me* (<http://www.theleaderinme.org/>) *The Leader in Me* is FranklinCovey's whole school transformation process. It teaches 21st century leadership and life skills based on Stephen Coveys' *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader. (Click here for the 7 habits for kids: <http://www.theleaderinme.org/information/what-is-the-leader-in-me/the-7-habits-for-kids/>)

### **World Language Update**

Our search continues for a Mandarin teacher. However, to avoid a loss of language instruction, all Mandarin students will start the school year off in a language class. Each student will be randomly placed in either Spanish, Japanese, or French. In the near future, Parents will be invited to a discussion to help decide:

- Do we stay with the search in order to maintain our Mandarin program?
- Do we select a different language?
  - If so, is there a pool of candidates for that language?
- Do we add a second Spanish teacher, for example?

### **Parent Portal**

To receive your child's PIN for the Parent Portal, please e-mail [parentportalinfo@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**We Are Murray, We are one!**

### **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°F, students not eating breakfast will be supervised on the playground. On cold (temperature below 40°F), snowy, or rainy days, non-breakfast students 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. 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!**

### **Student Fee**

Like all public schools, we are struggling with cuts in our funding, and 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 is due the first day of school. The fee covers an array of school functions and supplies for students and teachers.

### **Parking Issues**

Please do not double park and block traffic on 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, please do not park in the cul-de-sac. Passing cars and trucks have trouble maneuvering the sharp right turn with cars occupying this no-parking zone.

### **The Leader in Me**

Content from *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* is a key component of the overall *The Leader in Me* process. *The 7 Habits* is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures.

### **Dress Code**

Our school does not require a school uniform. We do expect all students to be dress appropriately while at school.

### **SCHOOL MEALS**

Breakfast and lunch will be available beginning the first day of classes, and is free of charge to all students. The link to CPS menus is: [http://www.cps.edu/About\\_CPS/Departments/Pages/MealMenu.aspx](http://www.cps.edu/About_CPS/Departments/Pages/MealMenu.aspx).

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