

August 17, 2011

Dear Del Mar Middle School Families:

I would like to take this time to personally welcome you to the new school year. I am looking forward to another great year and would like to inform you of what's new at Del Mar in 2011/12 and to provide you with some important reminders.

New Faces (and New Locations)

- *Christine Childress* will teach 6th grade English and Strategies.
- *Tricia Maxson* is one of our two new English teachers and will be teaching 7th and 8th grade English this year.
- *Kristi Perani* is our new 8th grade science teacher.
- *Michelle Sugden* is new to our Spanish department and will teach intermediate level and some of our introductory middle school Spanish sections.
- *Beth McClendon* is our new instructional Learning Center aide.
- *Janet Cerni* will be working with all students and teachers as our new Information Media Specialist (a.k.a. Librarian).

All bring a wealth of experience and expertise to Del Mar and we look forward to welcoming them aboard!

New Plan for Laptop Rollouts

- *Seventh and eighth grade students* will receive their laptops on Tuesday, August 30—the beginning of our first full week of school! There will be no formal evening presentation. Students will receive instruction and reminders in each of their classes about proper laptop usage and care. Laptop insurance is \$110 for returning students. Please make your check out to RUSD and return check to our office. New 7/8th grade students insurance fee is \$140 and includes a carrying case. Laptops will not be distributed until payment is received.
- *Sixth grade* laptop rollout is Tuesday evening, September 6. All students must attend, accompanied by a parent for a brief presentation and to receive their laptop computers. Laptop insurance is \$140 and includes a carrying case. Please make your check out to RUSD. 7/8 grade families new to Del Mar are also welcome to attend. More specific information about Laptop Rollout evening will follow.

Class Schedules

This year, students will receive their class schedules on-line. Students: Be sure to bring them the first day of school (and to orientation if you are new to Del Mar).

As we are busy making final preparations to the start of the year, we are only able to address students who have questions about their schedules should they have major conflicts, i.e. no history class, three math classes, two classes during third period, 8th grade student placed in 6th grade science by mistake. Students requesting to change elective classes must wait until the end of the second week of school, at which time they may complete a class change request form which will be available at the school office. We will make multiple announcements to inform and remind students of this process.

6th Grade and New Student Orientation is Wednesday, August 24 at 11:30. Students should report to the gym (with their class schedule) and parents wishing to attend, please meet at the amphitheater.

- Please bring a check made out to Del Mar Middle School in the amount of \$8.00 for your student to purchase a combination lock for the courtyard locker. Locks must be purchased from the school for security reasons.
- The students will purchase gym clothes from their PE Teacher. The gym teachers will notify you of the cost and when to send a check with your child.

First day of school is Thursday, August 25. The student day begins with class at 8:10 a.m. Please note the campus is not supervised before 8:00 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m. (unless there is a designated school activity previously scheduled).

- Students should bring a bag lunch to school for the first two days. The PTA lunch program begins, Monday, August 29. Students should also bring a healthy snack to school each day for break.

For student safety, cars are not permitted in the school parking lot. Please discuss with your child where to meet each day after school and be sure to discuss an “emergency” plan should delays (i.e. traffic, bad weather, etc.) occur. Do not park in neighbors’ driveways and be extra cautious when pulling in and out of parking spaces to ensure safety.

On behalf of the entire staff, welcome back. We all look forward to partnering with you to make this a productive and enjoyable year!

Best regards,
Alan Vann Gardner, Ed.D.
Principal