



ORIOLE TIMES

From The Principal

Dear Students and Parents:

A wonderful summer, weather wise is about to come to an end. With the changing of the season also comes the excitement and anticipation of the start of a new school year. It seems like only yesterday that we were saying good-bye to our students and focusing on using the summer months to continue to improve the quality of education at the Middle School.

We have worked hard to prepare our facilities and programs to meet the needs of our students, and their families. We have been true to that focus, and are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to implement the many new ideas that have been developed over the summer. Our continued efforts will always be to make Charlotte Middle School a building "Where Kids Come First".

We sincerely hope that your child has a very successful and happy school year, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me at 541-5700.

Your Partner in Education

Wayne Brown

Meet Our New Assistant Principals

Welcome! I am Mrs. Noble, the assistant principal here at Charlotte Middle School. I am new to the district and very excited to meet you and your families. I was born and raised in Warsaw, Indiana, a community very similar to Charlotte. I completed my undergraduate studies at Ball State University and my graduate studies at Michigan State. Prior to coming to Charlotte, I worked for Holt Public Schools as the at-risk coordinator in the 7 – 8 building.

Welcome everyone to the start of another great school year. I am Mrs. Postle. I am so excited to get started as the new Associate Principal at Charlotte Middle School. I grew up in Lake Odessa and attended Lakewood High School. After graduation I attended Kalamazoo College where I earned a Bachelors degree in Biology, Economics, and Secondary Education. I started my teaching career at Ionia Public Schools and spent the last six years working for Huron Valley Public schools teaching and doing administrative work at their Alternative High School. During my time at Huron Valley I also attended Oakland University and received a Masters degree in Educational Studies. I enjoyed coaching softball and basketball for Huron Valley Schools and look forward to becoming an avid fan of Charlotte athletics. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with any questions, comments, or concerns. I look forward to getting to know the students, staff, and community in the coming year.

Fall Events

Aug. 27 - 7:00 to 8:00 Open House
Aug. 28 - 7:00 Varsity Home Football
Sept. 2 - First 0.School
Sept. 4 - Picture Day
Sept. 6 - 10:30 AM Frontier Days

First Day

September 2nd is the first day of school! Students will be permitted to enter the building at 7:20 am. Breakfast is available in the cafeteria from 7:20 to 7:45. At 7:45 students will be released to class. Fifth and 6th grade students should report to their first period core class. An example of a core class would be social studies or science. Seventh and 8th grade students should report to their first period class. School starts at 7:50 am each day. The middle school day is tentatively scheduled to dismiss at 2:51 pm everyday **except on Wednesday, dismissal will be at 2:16 pm.**

You should bring paper or a notebook and something to write with for your first day of school. You do not need to bring gym clothes or instruments the first day. Some teachers may request that you bring other items for the first day of school. If that is the case, your teacher will let you know before the first day.

Open House

Charlotte Middle School's Open House will be on Wednesday, **August 27th** from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. We encourage all students to bring their families to tour the school with you and meet your teachers. 5th and 6th graders will report to their team rooms and 7th and 8th graders will follow their schedules.

Bus Information

Bus information cards were mailed out to families the week of August 11th. Your bus driver should be contacting you the week of August 18th. If you have not received your bus information card or if you have questions regarding bussing, please contact the bus garage at 543-3400.

CMS Welcomes New Staff

CMS is excited to welcome four new teachers and a new secretary this fall! Amanda Williams will be teaching Spanish and Language Arts, Nancy Gensel will also be teaching Spanish, Tina Barnard will be teaching Science and Amy Lein will be teaching Math. Carol Vasquez will be our new secretary in the office. When you see them in school please be sure to say hello. We look forward to the 2008-2009 school year with our new teachers and staff!

Student Drop Off

For the safety and well-being of all our students, all drivers dropping students off before school are asked to use the student drop-off loop located on the west side of the building. It is important to use the full loop and drop students off at the front sidewalk as opposed to cutting through the parking lot.

Dropping students in the parking lot is dangerous because it forces them to cut through traffic. All drivers would like the drop-off process to be as quick as possible. Please understand that cutting through the parking lot endangers students, does not speed up the process because the same number of cars have to funnel in and out and is disrespectful to those willing to follow the procedure properly. When dropping your student off, pull as far forward in the loop as possible to permit as many vehicles access as possible.

Parents **please** emphasize this with your high school students who may be dropping off middle school siblings. Thanks for keeping all of our students safe!



Oriole Times

The “Oriole Times” is a newsletter that is published the third week of every other month. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed of upcoming events, as well as share exciting information that is happening at school. It will be sent home with students and is also available on our school web site which you can access at charlottenet.org. The web site includes our newsletter, teacher’s email addresses, phone numbers, school calendar, and other useful school information.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taken on September 4th – the third day of school. Students will receive order packets on Tuesday, September 2nd. Please plan with your parents in advance for this event. **Money for pictures will be due on picture day.** Picture packages range in price from \$11.00 to \$52.00. Most of the packages are \$20.00 to \$30.00. Gray background is included in the package prices, color backgrounds are \$4.00 more per package and the “Soft Impression” enhancement is an additional \$4.00. Be sure to share this information with your parents now and again when you receive your packet on the first day of school. Please look over the packet carefully since some of the information may have changed.

After School Swim

There will no longer be a free after school swim program offered. For information on the Aquatic Center Fall pool schedule please contact the Aquatic Center at 541-5740. To find out “what’s happening today” call the Activity Line at 541-5745.

Middle School Athletics

REMINDER: All students who wish to participate in any sport must have a sports physical card completed and turned in to the Middle School office before they can participate in any way, **including practice and/or tryouts.**

Early Dismissal

To ensure the safety of all students, in the event that a student must leave the building during the school day they must sign out in the Main Office. No student will be permitted to sign out without a parent or guardian present. **Please limit early dismissal to legitimate reasons only.** Our teachers and staff work hard to maintain a learning environment throughout the entire day. Taking your student out of school early not only reduces your student’s learning opportunities, but also disrupts the entire class.

Schedule Changes

Please note that there will be **no schedule changes the first week of school,** unless your student does not have a complete schedule. If your student does not have 7 class periods per day please contact the Guidance office at 541 - 5720. For schedule changes after the first week of school there will be a request form available in the mail office.



Camp

7th Grade Camp: The Board of Education voted to move forward with the transition of 7th grade camp to the 5th grade. One of the original purposes of camp was to build relationships between students coming from different buildings as they entered the middle school. Students now enter middle school in 5th grade. The plan will be to transition the camp to 5th grade over a two year period to be sure that current grades do not miss the camp opportunity. This year 6th and 7th grade will be going to camp later in the year. Watch for more information to come.

Easing into Fifth Grade

Moving to the Middle School can be an exciting and challenging time for both student and parent alike. We thought we'd share some tips that may help you transition your child into the middle school with ease.

Expect change. This is a time of tremendous social, emotional, academic and physical growth. Your student will experience all sorts of opportunities and challenges. The amount and depth of school work increases and teachers expect work to be turned in on time. Some students will be able to "scope out" the social scene at middle school and find where they fit in. Others may struggle with making friends. Parents can help by being reassuring about physical and emotional changes, praising your student's efforts and successes, and by not trying to solve social problems for your child. You can also help your student succeed by having a homework plan in place and sticking to it, and finding ways to get involved (even if your student asks you not to). Understand and know that forgetfulness is a part of early adolescence and try hard to be patient with your child.

Expect some apprehension. The first few days of middle school are probably the scariest for fifth graders. There are many new things to master, including locker combinations, the daily schedule, how to navigate the hallways and find their classes, and learning how to handle themselves when eighth graders are around. Parents can help by bringing your child to the middle school open house on Aug. 27 to meet their teachers and take a walking tour before school starts, and purchasing a padlock with a combination for your student to practice on.

Keep the lines of communication open. Even though your child may be pulling away from you, it is important that he/she knows and feels your presence. Middle school kids still need limits and boundaries, and they need to know you care about their activities. Parents can help by asking specific questions, being a good listener and by being ready to talk when your child wants to. Understand your child's need for more privacy.

Never hesitate to call the school. The entire staff at CMS is committed to serving this community. The teachers like to be the first point of contact for concerns about your student's work or academic progress. We hope this information is helpful to you. We look forward to meeting you in person and getting to know your student.

Middle School Lunch

The lunch and breakfast program at the middle school provides a wide variety of nutritious food for our students, to promote good health and education. A middle school lunch consists of a choice of a main entrée, a choice of two fruits and vegetables, a bread item and milk. The main entrée choice changes every day, but there are items such as pizza, chicken sandwich, chef salad, cheeseburger and yogurt that are always offered every day. The cost for lunch is \$2.25.

We also offer snack items for sale. Students may buy these items in addition to their hot or cold lunch. **If you would like to limit the amount of money your child may spend on snacks, please call the Food Service office at 541-5140.**

Breakfast is offered each morning beginning at 7:20 AM. Breakfast consists of a choice of cereal, bagel, breakfast bar, yogurt, fruit or juice and milk. The cost for breakfast is \$1.20.

All students, including those that qualify for free or reduced meals will receive a personal identification number (PIN) to access their meal account at school. **Please help your student memorize their PIN number.**

Payment for meals can be made through the food line, mailed to the Food Service Dept., or via electronic fund deposits at our CPS web page. If you are interested in EFUNDS please contact Michelle Sine at 541-5100.

To view your family's food service account balance and activity online, contact Gloria Wilson at 541-5750 for online access.

For more information visit the Food Service Tab at www.charlottenet.org.

