



Eastern Middle School

300 University Boulevard East
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901
301-650-6650

August 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Eastern Middle School! I hope that you were able to enjoy a fun and relaxing summer break. We have been working all summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. We are cleaned, organized and planned – ready for the return of 815 students on Monday, August 30th. This school year promises to be the best year yet for Eastern Middle School!

Many and diverse learning experiences are in place for the students of Eastern Middle School this year. Our goal is to challenge your children intellectually, grow them socially, and guide them toward independent thinking and problem solving. As we make every effort to promote healthy development in all aspects of each student's life we also strive to develop a student body of good character; students who make good choices and decisions resulting in successful and healthy outcomes. At Eastern we value RESPECTFUL behavior, RESPONSIBLE choices, and positive RELATIONSHIPS. We intend to instill within our student body a positive academic identity and sense of personal pride. Additionally, we strive to make Eastern a school where staff are proud to work and students are proud to attend.

Highlights and changes for the upcoming school year include:

- Modified the daily schedule to include a period for student reteaching and reassessment. This time is called TCB time. Students and staff will use this time to Take Care of Business! Detailed information about the schedule is included in this mailing.
- Continued collaboration with MCPS through the Middle School Reform Initiative. These supports include professional development all staff and new academic and elective course opportunities.
- Expanded celebrations for all students. Student recognition will occur throughout the year to support student academic and social growth.
- Continued partnership with the PTSA to support student initiatives and sponsor community activities.
- Revised traffic pattern around the circle for student drop-off and dismissal.

I feel incredibly privileged to serve the Eastern community as your principal. I look forward to meeting our new families and working with each of you to make every day at Eastern a great day!

With great excitement,

Casey B. Crouse
Proud Principal of Eastern Middle School

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION is scheduled for Thursday, August 26th from 7:55AM until 11:40AM. Students new to Eastern are invited to come in, meet their teachers and learn their way around the school. The MCPS buses will run as usual in the morning and will return students to their bus stop at the conclusion of orientation.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL is scheduled for August 30, 2010. All students will begin the first day in homeroom. Look for the homeroom list in this packet to know where your homeroom is located this year. This list will also be posted in the halls at school on the first day back. As students arrive at school they are encouraged to go directly to their homeroom.

THE SCHOOL DAY begins at 7:55AM. By this time all students should be in class prepared for the day. The doors open every day at 7:30AM. In order to achieve success, it is important that students attend school every day on time.

THE SCHOOL DAY ends at 2:40PM. We will continue to offer after school activities and activity buses. Information about the after school opportunities will be distributed to students after the start of the year. Students that are not participating in an after school activity are required to leave building by 2:50PM.

RIDE-ON BUS ACCESS is *no longer free for students*. Monthly youth cruiser passes are available for \$11 per month. Passes may be purchased by mail, online or at the TRiPs stores in Silver Spring, Friendship Heights, or at Ride-On Headquarters in Rockville.

STUDENT SCHEDULES will be provided at new student orientation and on the first day of school. We recognize that students and parents are anxious to learn what classes they are taking and who their teachers are but we request that you please do not call to request your schedule early. Once schedules have been provided should you have any questions or concerns please contact the Eastern Counseling Office at 301-650-6660.

BREAKFAST and LUNCH are available for purchase every day. Breakfast is served from 7:30AM – 7:45AM. Lunches are scheduled between 10:38AM and 12:54PM. Additional information about menus, school meal pricing and the Free and Reduced Meal program is enclosed in this mailing. Eating a nutritious breakfast and lunch every day is critical to student's success in school.

GRAPHING CALCULATORS are necessary for the student to demonstrate mastery of the mathematics curriculum, beginning with Algebra 1. A graphing calculator is not needed before Algebra 1. Students are encouraged to buy their own graphing calculators to use during Algebra 1 and subsequent mathematics courses. The TI-84 is the suggested calculator and it can be purchased at most local stores including Target, Staples, and Wal-Mart. Eastern will loan out a limited supply of graphing calculators in working order. Students must return calculators in working order at the end of the year. Your student's math teacher will let the class know if a graphing calculator will be necessary for their course.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION will be requested during the first week of school. Please update this information and return it immediately to school with your child. It is important that we can reach you in case your child is sick or there is school emergency.

The **PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PTSA)** is an important partnership that brings all members of the school community together to support Eastern Middle School. All parents, students, and staff are encouraged to support the PTSA through membership, active participation in activities, volunteering, and/or financial contributions. Information from the PTSA is included in the mailing printed on yellow paper.

All students are strongly encouraged to purchase an **AGENDA BOOK**. The agenda book provides valuable information about Eastern Middle School including the school vision and mission, contact information, student code of conduct, and the policies and procedures. Most importantly the agenda book is an important tool for organization providing a place for students to write down homework assignments for each class. The agenda book can also be used as communication tool between the school and home. The cost of the agenda book is \$5.00 and will be available for purchase at new student orientation and throughout the first weeks of school.

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of School

August 30, 2010

PTSA Eat, Meet and Greet

September 1, 2010

6:00PM in the EMS Cafeteria

All families are encouraged to attend this FREE event.
Meet EMS staff and other parents, tour the school, and eat dinner.

Sixth Grade Outdoor Education Information Meeting

September 1, 2010

7:30PM in the EMS Media Center

All sixth grade families are encouraged to attend.
Get questions answered about the outdoor education experience including...

Where do we go for outdoor ed?

What do students do at outdoor ed?

How much does it cost?

What should I pack?

Back to School Night

September 16, 2010

6:30PM

A great opportunity to meet your child's teachers.
All parents are encouraged to attend

Sixth Grade Outdoor Education

October 4-8

It is our hope that ALL sixth graders participate in this fun experience!