



Lyn Gandolf, Principal

Plainfield Memorial School

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August 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of the entire faculty of Plainfield Memorial School, I would like to welcome you to the start of a brand new school year. We are all looking forward to a successful and rewarding school year for you and your child. We are committed to educational excellence and believe quality education is achieved through strong partnerships among school, family and community. We maintain high expectations of student performance within a positive and nurturing environment where all students can learn. We strive to ensure success for every student. We believe each of our students is a unique individual whose differences will be respected and celebrated. Our staff combines their efforts to meet national, state, and local standards, placing strong emphasis on reading, writing and mathematics. Our staff is committed to developing a trusting relationship, working closely together keeping you informed on a regular basis, all of which ensures an even higher degree of success in school for your child.

Research shows regular attendance is the single most important factor in school success. One of our priorities is stressing the importance of good attendance and coming to school everyday. We ask you to encourage your child to come to school everyday and on time. Remind them to always do their very best in everything that they do and to show respect to everyone and every thing.

All students at PMS will use a student agenda. Your child will receive an agenda book on the first day of school. This will be used to record homework assignments nightly. We do expect every child to read for a minimum of 20 minutes each night. The teachers will be posting homework assignments every evening on the homeworknow.com website. Both you and your child may access this site from home if you have any questions regarding an assignment. You will receive a monthly newsletter, *Address for Success*, regarding important information about our school. Our website at plainfieldschools.org is also a way for you to communicate with us.

I invite you to visit our school and classrooms. You can become involved in our very active PTO and/or become a member of Parents as Partners, our parent volunteer program. We invite you to share your talents and expertise with students and teachers, and/or volunteer in the library or computer lab. We value your input and look forward to working together in anyway that is possible.

August 26th – You Are Invited!

First, we invite you to visit PMS with your child, tour the school, and visit classrooms, on **August 26th** anytime from **1:00-3:00**. First Day is the one day each year when it is most important to enlist parents as partners in their children's education – a great time for us to open our doors to parents and make them welcome. Parents, students and other community members have been invited to tour the building and meet the teachers. The First Day of School America Campaign encourages the community to show support for our school system by getting involved from the start of the year, and provides staff and parents with the chance to build foundations for new and positive relationships in the coming school year.

August 27th- School Begins – Early Dismissal Day

The **first day of school** for your child is **Wednesday, August 27th** which is a **half-day** of school. Dismissal will be at **11:55 a.m.** The **first full day of school** is **Thursday, August 28**, and the school hours are **8:00-2:40**. Lunch will begin being served on that day and the cost is \$2.25. Our breakfast program will begin on September 4th and the cost is \$1.90. For safety reasons, directly in front of the school will be reserved for busses only. We ask if you are dropping your child off at school, please park in the parking lot located to the right of the school, enter through the front doors and report to the guidance office. We have put up some new signs and reserved parking spaces for student pickup and drop off (15 minute parking) If you are picking him/her up after school, please carry identification with you, park in the parking lot located to the right of the school, enter the building at the lower level main office entrance and report to the guidance office.

Nightly 20 Minutes of Reading

Reading is the most important subject and a focus at our school. Every student is required to read for 20 minutes nightly and parents are asked to please sign the reading log.

HOMEWORKNOW.com

All teachers will post homework assignment nightly on homeworknow.com. There is also a link on that site to email teachers with any questions and/or concerns.

Summer Reading Project

Reading is the most important subject and a focus at our school. All students at PMS are required to read a minimum of 2 books and complete a reading/writing activity for each. Summer Reading lists and activities are due to be handed in no later than September 12th from every student.

Class Assignment and Bus Routes

Your child's classroom teacher and bus information is also included in this letter. Some adjustments may need to be made to class placements during the first days of school which will accommodate the individual needs of students and maintain classroom balances. On the first day of school, you will receive a packet of information, numerous forms, and the PMS Student Handbook located in the front of the agenda to review, discuss, and sign with your child. Parents shall be

notified upon request at the beginning of each school year, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. We ask you to please fill out the information sheet and return it as soon as possible.

Late Bus Transportation

As a result of rising transportation costs and significant budget reductions, our late bus budget was reduced. We will be providing after school late bus transportation, however, students will be dropped off at locations in their neighborhood and will walk home from that "cluster stop." Door to door service for late bus transportation will not be offered. Parents do have the option of picking their children up after school at the school at 3:45, or meeting them at the neighborhood "cluster stop." Specific neighborhood locations and times will be sent home during the second week of school.

Parent Volunteers

Our children experience an even higher degree of success when we work together as partners. We would like to invite you to read with a child, practice math, work in the library, etc. Perhaps you could help with our after school homework club. Please call the school to indicate the day(s) of the week you are available and times that are good for you. Together, we can achieve more.

It is with great pleasure and pride I welcome you to a brand new school year at PMS. Our goal is to provide your child with a productive and successful intermediate school experience. I value your input and suggestions. I am available to meet and talk with you anytime. By working together, we can promote high student achievement and create an effective learning environment fostering success for every student. I am confident that every student will achieve success.

Sincerely,

Lyn Gandolf, Principal