



PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
 155 Parrott Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801
 (603) 436-5781

Summer Mailing

2010

DATES TO REMEMBER:

AUGUST	Homeroom assignments posted on front doors of school.
AUGUST	Counselors available as of August 26, 2010 First Day of School September 1, 2010 Student schedules distributed during homeroom Picnic for 6th Grade Students on the first day of school
SEPTEMBER 8	School Pictures will be taken
SEPTEMBER 23	Parents Open House

PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION

VISITOR SIGN -IN	Parents who enter the school at any time during the day should use the front door of the school and <u>come into the office to sign</u> in and receive a <u>"VISITOR"</u> sticker. Please help us keep our school secure by following this procedure.
EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY	If a student must leave school during the school day, please send a note with the student explaining what time you want him/her in the office to be dismissed. <u>The student should bring the note into the office prior to morning homeroom and will be given a pass to be dismissed from class to the office at the appropriate time.</u> We ask that parents come into the office and sign the student out.
CHILD WATCH PROCEDURE	Our secretaries will be making follow-up calls on students who are marked "absent" in homeroom and have not been called in by a parent or guardian as being absent. We call to verify that the child is not in school and to make certain the parent/guardian is aware of the absence.
LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS	On the first day of school students will be given a packet of information. This packet includes an emergency information form, a computer usage agreement, health update form, and a locker agreement. When all forms have been completed and returned to the homeroom teacher, a locker will be assigned. Students must also pay any outstanding fees owed to the office (borrowed lunch money, lost books, etc.) from the 09-10 school year before a locker will be assigned.

<p>STUDENT TARDIES</p>	<p>Being tardy to morning homeroom is disruptive for the class and the tardy student. Important information is announced and distributed during this short period and tardy students may miss opportunities offered at our school. Give your child a boost towards responsibility by making sure he/she arrives at school by 7:30 A.M. Homeroom starts at 7:40 A.M.</p>
<p>ATTENDANCE POLICY</p>	<p>When your child is absent from or late for school, please call the main office (436-5781) by 8:00 A.M. to report the absence. If you wish to notify the school during the previous evening or earlier than 7:00 A.M. you may do so by calling the school and leaving a message in the attendance voicemail box at extension 401. If your child is planning to be out for a few days (i.e., family vacation), please provide advance written notice to the office.</p>
<p>E-MAIL</p>	<p>If you would like to be on the Portsmouth Middle School e-mail database, it is not too late to e-mail your address to us. Please send your e-mail address to jstokel@portsmouth.k12.nh.us. Please include your child's name, your name and your child's grade</p>
<p>MORNING DROP OFF PROCEDURES</p>	<p>Dear Parent(s), If you drop your son/daughter off at school in the morning, please use the following procedure for safety reasons: Drive down Rogers Ave. and drop-off at the intersection of Rogers and Parrott. This way your son/daughter can exit your automobile and go directly to the sidewalk in front of the school. Our custodian will then direct you to proceed left on Parrott, which will keep you out of the bus traffic in front of the school. I appreciate your help with the morning traffic congestion.</p>

August, 2010

**HEALTH OFFICE
INFORMATION**

Dear Parent:

The New Hampshire Immunization Program has changed the immunization/vaccine requirements.

Two changes highlighted requirements include:

Tdap

When a child is 11 years of age or older, and it has been 5 years or longer since the last documented dose of a tetanus toxic containing immunization, the child shall receive a one-time dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine prior to the start of the school year.

Varicella/chicken pox

Beginning the 2009/2010 school years, all children entering sixth grade shall have received two valid doses of varicella vaccine or history of disease as reported by healthcare provider, or parent, is acceptable for 1st grade through 12th grades and should be documented in the student's record.

Students 7th grade through 12th grade are required to have 1 dose of varicella vaccine, or two doses if the first dose was administered after the 13th birthday, or history of disease.

This is a big change for most students and parents will need to contact their medical provider prior to the start of the school year to ensure that all of each student's immunizations are up to date.

Please call Kathy Casperson RNC at Portsmouth Middle School at 436-5781 with questions.

She will be available in the PMS Health Office for student orientation and parent questions from 8AM to 11AM on Thursday, August 26, 2010. Parents who have students with health concerns, allergies or routinely take medications during school hours may meet with her. No appointment is required.

This would be a good time for parent's to bring in student medication and sign the necessary parent permission forms for administration during school hours.

Students entering 7th grade are required to have an MMR booster. If your physician has recently given this booster to your student, please send a note to Ms. Casperson explaining where and when the booster was administered.

Nutrition

A well balanced breakfast and lunch is available to all students.

Please encourage your children to either eat breakfast at home or at school. If they can't eat in the morning, send them to school with a breakfast bar, snack, etc. which may be eaten during the homeroom period of 7:40AM to 8:00AM.

<p>GUIDANCE COUNSELORS</p>	<p>Each team of students has a guidance counselor assigned to assist students with schedules and other issues as needed. The counselors will be available as of August 26,2010. They are Laura Bonner and Deane Beman</p>
<p>BUS INFORMATION</p>	<p>Bus routes and times will be published in the local newspapers at the end of August. Students should arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early during the first week until the regular schedule is solidified. Portsmouth Middle School runs a late bus each Monday through Thursday. The late bus leaves school at approximately 3:30. Students using the late bus are subject to the same rules as students riding the regular school buses. Students in the building after 2:00 are expected to be with a teacher or involved in an after school program. Students will be issued a ticket in the cafeteria, which will allow them entry on to the late bus.</p>
<p>HOMEWORK POLICY</p>	<p>If your child is out of school for 2 days or longer, you may contact our guidance secretary, Laura Pitts, at extension 226, by 8:00 AM for homework assignments. (Early notice is required because of teacher schedules.) Ms. Pitts will gather homework for you to pick up in the main office between 2:30 and 3:30 PM. Some classroom work is impossible to send home. If these cases, your student can make arrangements with the teacher to stay after school when she/he returns.</p>
<p>DRESS CODE</p>	<p>As the new school year approaches, so does the annual clothes-shopping event for children. This is very exciting for middle schoolers as the new articles of clothing reinforce the "fresh start to a new year". For some parents, the pre-school shopping is exciting. For others, it is stressful as we balance what we can afford with the desires of our children.</p> <p>At Portsmouth Middle School there is a school dress code. This set of guidelines helps the children make decisions about what clothes are appropriate for a school environment. In general, the students at Portsmouth Middle School are respectful of the dress code. Before you shop for clothing, we would appreciate it if you would review the school dress code with your children. The basic outline of the code is below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All clothing should be in good taste and appropriate for an educational environment. 2. All shorts and skirts must be of an appropriate length. 3. Clothing that has inappropriate or suggestive logos is not appropriate. 4. Pocketbooks should not be in school as they are a distraction. If your child needs to bring a pocketbook, it should be 6"x6" or smaller. 5. Hats may not be worn in school. 6. Tank Tops must have a minimum 2" shoulder strap.
<p>LOST AND FOUND</p>	<p>Items found on school grounds during the year or left behind in lockers are placed in a lost-and-found bin located by the Main Office.</p>

NOTICES:

- **6th grade students will be provided a picnic lunch** on the first day of school (September 1) This lunch will include hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks. You do not need to send a lunch with your 6th grade student on this day. If you would like to help out with the cookout please contact our school secretary Patty Dube at 436-5781.
- **School supplies lists.** All grades have put together a list of necessary supplies for next year. Each student will be provided an agenda book when school begins.
- **Final report cards for the 09-10** school year are available in the main office. If you have not yet picked up your report card, please do so as soon as possible or you may go on to the Parent Portal see your child's grades
- **Summer office hours** are 7:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday.

The following materials are recommended to assist the students in organizing their work this year at the **Portsmouth Middle School**. The students will be provided with an agenda book on the first day of classes.

Sixth Grade Supply List

General and Language Arts

- Accordion Folder with at least eight pockets or a 2" 3 ring binder
- Three holed Pencil Case and Pencils
- Blue or black erasable pen
- Red pen for editing
- 2 by 2 post it notes
- Hand held pencil sharpener with shavings catcher
- Set of dividers
- Independent reading book

Math

- Set of dividers
- Package of reinforcements
- Basic calculator to be used at home
- Thin **BLACK** white board markers

Seventh Grade Supply List

- (3) 1-inch binders
- (3) boxes of pencils
- Blue or black erasable pens
- One - Basic Calculator
- Fourteen - notebook dividers, (10 if you don't take a language) pouch in which to keep pencils and pens
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At Home Supplies:

Colored pencils

Glue stick

Metric ruler

NOT Recommended for 7th graders: trapper keepers zip binders, multi-pocket organizers, and spiral bound notebooks.

Note: These supplies will provide a solid start for students as they begin seventh grade. Please keep in mind that some items (such as paper and pencils) will need to be replenished throughout the school year

Eighth Grade Supply List

Math

Pencils, filler paper, basic calculator (it only needs to add, subtract, multiply, and divide), reinforcements, dividers

English

3 subject notebook, pens, pencils, note cards, sturdy folder's

Science

1inch 3-ring binder, pencils, optional–reinforcements, dividers for 6 months

Social Studies

Pens (blue or black preferred), pencils, 3 ring binder, reinforcements, 5 dividers (1 pack)

