

### Mission Statement

The faculty, staff, and community of Sykesville Middle School are committed to academic excellence, enhancement of individual self-esteem and the development of strong character through meaningful and diverse educational experiences.

### Principal's Message

August 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you have had an enjoyable summer with many opportunities to connect with your family. Last March Mrs. Corbel and I became the administrative team to finish the school year. I am pleased to announce we will continue as the administrative team at Sykesville Middle.

Please read the newsletter closely as you will be able to find the team your student is on for the upcoming year and the homeroom they are to report to on the first day. Students will be given schedules on the first day of school. Also in the newsletter, students can find the supply list of materials recommended for each of the teams.

I invite all parents to be active in your child's education and communicate with the teachers and the administration. Best wishes and enjoy the remaining summer days and remember that school begins for your students on Tuesday, August 25.

### Hello from Mrs. Corbel

Even though I am a new addition to the administrative team, I am not new to Sykesville Middle. I have been teaching here for many years. I enjoyed serving as the acting assistant principal last year and am really excited about the new school year. I am looking forward to working with the best staff, parents, and students a community could ask for. Enjoy the rest of your summer and come back excited for a new year.

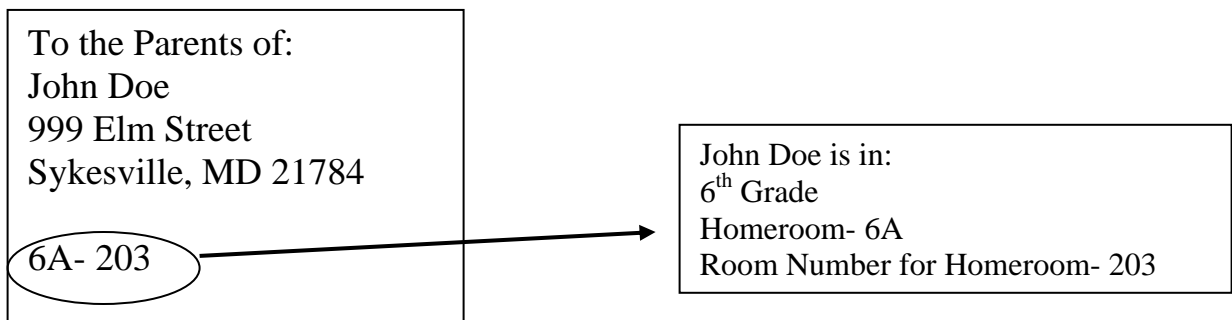
**Kim Corbel**  
Assistant Principal

## AlertNow Announcement for Newsletters

The Carroll County Public School System is now using the AlertNow Rapid Communication Service to provide parents with information from their child's schools and the school system. AlertNow replaces eSchoolnewsletter and is capable of delivering both e-mail and phone alerts at no charge to parents. You do not have to sign up for the new system. All information is taken from emergency procedure cards. AlertNow was piloted in six schools last year and we have had very positive feedback. We are excited about the new capabilities AlertNow offers and believe it will greatly enhance our communication with parents and our school communities.

## Homerooms

You will find your child's homeroom on the front cover of this newsletter. You will notice a number and a letter on the cover where the address is. That number and letter designate your child's homeroom assignment.



Teachers' names and room numbers are listed beginning on page 3 of this newsletter. We will be unable to provide this information over the phone due to the volume of calls. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Bus Routes and Transportation Information

Bus routes will be available in the *Carroll County Times* "Back to School" edition around mid August.



**Sykesville Middle School Staff**

**\*Team Leader**

<b>Team 1</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mrs. Kienzle	*	SS	202
Ms. Whitlow	6A	RLA	203
Mr. Wisner	6B	Math	200
Mrs. Martin	6C	Science	233

<b>Team 2</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mrs. Shovlin	*	RLA	204
Miss Belsinger	6D	SS	223
Mrs. Winegrad	6E	Math	222
Mr. Lowe	6F	Science	221

<b>Team 3</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mrs. Brown	*	Math	209
Mrs. Snead	6G	RLA	210
Mrs. Zepp	6H	SS	208
Mrs. Hiles	6I	Science	218

<b>Team 4</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mrs. Mc Dearmon	*	RLA	216
Miss Davis	7A	Science	175
Miss Mullinix	7B	SS	211
Ms. Henning	7C	Math	217

<b>Team 5</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mr. Flora	*	Science	177
Mrs. McLeod	7D	RLA	169
Mr. Perry	7E	SS	176
Mrs. Schmidtman	7F	Math	171

<b>Team 6</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mrs. Ellis	*	Science	180
Mrs. Ferguson	7G	RLA	P7
Ms. Malinauskas	7H	Math	170
Miss Geiger	7I	SS	P8

<b>Team 7</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mrs. Murphy	*	Science	163
Mr. Jones	8A	RLA	182
Ms. Golden	8B	Math	P5
Mr. Bortz	8C	SS	P6

<b>Team 8</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mr. Mc Dearmon	*	SS	P3
Mrs. Davies	8D	RLA	001
Miss Dufrane	8E	Math	P4
Ms. Cardellino	8F	Science	164

<b>Team 9</b>			
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Room</b>
Ms. Becker	*	Science	166
Mrs. DeBoy	8G	Math	P2
Miss Gallagher	8H	SS	P1
Mrs. Smith	8I	RLA	181

**Sykesville Middle School Staff**

**\*Team Leader**

<b>Specials</b>		
<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Room</u>
* Mrs. Schaper	FACS	152
Ms. Duda	Art	158B
Mrs. Crum-Derr	Art	158A
Miss Bohinc	Health	145
Ms. Johnson	Spanish	003
Mrs. Herget	PE	127
Mr. Beck	PE	133
Mr. Stoner	PE	133
Mrs. Paulsgrove	General Music/Chorus	045
Ms. Rostek	General Music/Chorus	025
Mr. Passen	Instrumental Music	140

<b>Resource Team</b>		
<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Room</u>
*Mrs. Bartlett	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Resource	165
Mrs. Mann	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Resource	205
Ms. Calabria	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Resource	205
Mrs. Betz	LFI/Structured Learning	002
Ms. Wingate	Speech Pathologist	205
Mrs. Gilmore	Reading Specialist	168
Mrs. Mayo	Media Specialist	Media
Mrs. Whitehead	Instructional Asst.	
Mrs. Fleming	Instructional Asst.	
Ms. Myers	Instructional Asst.	



## Calendar of Events

08/20	Volunteer Training @ 6:30 pm in Cafeteria 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meet the Teacher @ 7:00 pm	11/06	Book Fair – Last Day
08/25	Schools Open	11/09	Outdoor School thru 11/13 System-wide Early Dismissal – Sykesville @ 12:25 – Professional Development
09/07	Schools/Offices Closed – Labor Day	11/11	All-County Band Auditions 6-9 pm
09/10	Volunteer Training @ 6:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meet the Teacher @ 7:00 pm	11/16	Outdoor School thru 11/20
09/15	PTO Meeting @ 7:00 pm	11/17	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rec Day All-County String Auditions 6-9 pm PTO Meeting 7:00 pm in Media Center
09/18	System-wide Early Dismissal – Sykesville Middle @ 12:25 – Professional Development	11/18	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rec Day
09/23	Interim 1 Marking Pd. Ends	11/23	Parent/Teacher Conferences – Schools Closed for Students
09/24	Student Pictures	11/24	Parent/Teacher Conferences – Schools Closed for Students
09/25	PTO Scorpion Fest Fundraiser	11/25	Schools/Offices Closed thru 11/27 – Thanksgiving Holiday
09/28	Schools/Offices Closed – Yom Kippur	12/01	Picture Make-up
10/02	All-County Application Deadline	12/02	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rec Day
10/05	Spirit /Red Ribbon Week thru 10/09	12/04	Interim 2 Marking Pd. Ends
10/09	Spirit Games PTO Activity Night 7-10	12/08	Winter Concerts 7:00 pm @ Century High School
10/16	Schools Closed for Students and 10 Month Staff – Professional Meeting Day	12/09	Winter Concerts 7:00 pm @ Century High School
10/19	Outdoor School thru 10/23	12/15	PTO Meeting 7:00 pm
10/20	PTO Meeting 7:00 pm – Media Center	12/23	School/Offices Early Dismissal – Sykesville Middle @ 12.25
10/22	Book Fair in Media Center thru 11/06	12/24	Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday thru 01/-01
10/26	Outdoor School thru 10/30	01/04	School Reopens
10/29	System-wide Early Dismissal – Sykesville @ 12:25 pm – Teachers Work on End of Marking Period Items		
11/02	Outdoor School thru 11/06		



## Student Dress Code

The Board of Education has a strong commitment to the learning process. Therefore, the Board of Education has a legitimate interest in regulating student attire and appearance during the school day in an effort to avoid disruption, to promote self-discipline, to promote student health and safety, and to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning.

Students of Carroll County Public Schools are required to groom themselves in a manner that is modest, clean, appropriate, decent, and not disruptive to the educational process. Students are expected to abide by this dress code from THEIR arrival to the school building to the defined ending of the school day. The requirements include, but are not limited to:

### Definitions:

Cleavage Area: An area between the breasts exposed by a low-cut neckline

Skorts: Shorts with a skirt-like overlay

Midriff Area: An area between the chest and the abdomen

### Head Coverings:

- Hats, sunglasses, or head coverings of any kind, including bandanas and visors, shall not be worn in the school building unless approved for religious or medical reasons. Certain headbands, scrunchies, etc. which are used to hold hair in place and do not cover the entire head are permitted.

### Shirts: *Shirts shall:*

- Cover the entire back (i.e., no cutout backs, no shirts that tie in back).
- Cover the midriff area (bottom of the shirt must meet the top of the lower attire at all times).
- Cover undergarments (i.e., muscle shirts and under armor shirts are considered undergarments, and must have a shirt over them).
- Not be see-through.
- Fit modestly so that cleavage area is covered.
- Have two straps, one on each shoulder (no tube tops or halter tops).

### Shorts/Skirts/Skorts/Pants:

- Skirts, skorts, and shorts should not be excessively short. The guideline for “excessively short” is clothing that exposes the upper half of the thigh while standing. Pants will cover undergarments at all times and not be excessively long as to drag on the floor.

### Other:

- No bedroom slippers shall be worn.
- No spiked clothing or accessories shall be worn.
- No mutilated, cutout or ragged clothing shall be worn that exposes the bare skin between the upper chest and mid-thigh or creates a significant distraction.
- Underwear shall not be showing and shall not be worn as outerwear.
- Clothing shall Not convey advertisements for condoms or other birth control devices, stated or implied.
- Clothing shall not convey messages that express hate, racial slurs, or sexual harassment.
- Not convey establishments or products whose names can be directly interpreted or construed as carrying a “double meaning” involving sexual innuendo; tobacco, alcohol or drug use; gang symbols; weapons; or sexual activity.

### Violations

A student found wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change or remove the item, and will be given an opportunity to do so. Should the student not be able to change or remove the item, the individual school may provide clothing. Student failure to cooperate will be referred to an administrator. Any student not complying with the direction of the administrator may be considered insubordinate and subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### Requests for Exceptions

Exceptions to the dress code for the purpose of school spirit activities by clubs or organizations are will occur at the discretion of the school administration.

## Telecommunications

### Acceptable Use Procedures

The use of telecommunications is a privilege, not a right, and is to be used for educational purposes only.

### Students and staff are expected to:

- Use telecommunications services for curriculum-related purposes
- Monitor time online in consideration of others and in a courteous manner
- Use appropriate language/behavior
- Observe copyright laws/property rights
- Practice responsible, ethical, and legal behavior.

### Students and staff may not:

- Use telecommunications for financial gain or any illegal purpose
- Degrade or disrupt the telecommunication system performance
- Access information inconsistent with curriculum-related purposes
- Reveal home telephone numbers, addresses, or other personal information
- Violate the privacy of others.

The consequence of unacceptable use is decided by the school principal or designee and could result in suspension from school or the cancellation of such privileges. The consequences can be the result of actions by students taken at school or at home.

**If parents do not want their child to have access to computers and the Internet, they must notify the school principal in writing.**

## Cell Phones and Pagers

The Board of Education has a strong commitment to the learning process in schools. Therefore, the Board of Education prohibits the use of certain wireless communication devices which, in its opinion, has limited or no educational value, or that their use creates learner distraction or learning environment disruptions.

Cell phones and pagers are among the devices that are considered to be a distraction and disruption. **Students are prohibited to use cell phones or pagers on school property during the school day.**

Staff members and visiting adults shall turn off the audible notification on their cell phones and pagers during the school day when they are supervising students or participating in an activity with students.

### Exceptions to the Policy

1. The principal approves request from fire and rescue chiefs or any other emergency that needs trained students to respond to a community emergency.
2. Students with disabilities, who require the use of pagers, and/or cell phones, as designated by their IEP for medical or educational reasons, may use them during the school day with permission of the principal.

The appropriate use of other portable communication devices is described in the Acceptable Use Procedures for Telecommunications found in the Pupil Services Handbook and in the student handbook.

## Electronic Devices

Electronic devices (digital cameras, CD players, iPods, MP3 players, etc.) are not to be used in school without prior approval from the principal. Violations will result in disciplinary action.

## Placement, Promotion, Intervention and Retention of Students

Administrative procedures have been established to guide the implementation of Board Policy IKE – Placement, Promotion, Intervention, and Retention of Students. The procedures dealing specifically with the promotion and retention of students are as follows:

### Grades Six and Seven

To be promoted to the next grade, students must pass all core academic subjects (mathematics, reading/language arts, science, and social studies).

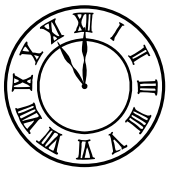
- A student who fails one or two of the core subjects for the year will be retained. If the student attends summer school and satisfactorily completes the course(s), which were failed, he/she will be promoted.
- A student who fails three or more of the core subjects will not be promoted.
- When a student fails three or more of the core subjects, he/she may attend summer school; however, credit toward promotion cannot be granted.

### **Grade 8**

To be promoted a student must pass all core subjects (mathematics, reading/language arts, science, and social studies).

- A student who fails one or two of the core subjects will be retained. If the student attends summer school and satisfactorily completes the course(s), which were failed, he/she will be promoted.
- A student who fails three or more of the core subjects will not be promoted.
- When a student fails three or more of the core subjects, he/she may attend summer school; however credit towards promotion cannot be granted.

The final responsibility for decisions on promotion of a student rests with the principal, except when decisions are made through the IEP process for students with documented special education needs. The principal is responsible for monitoring the decision. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the IEP Team decision, he/she has the right to appeal the decision according to legally mandated mediation/ due process procedures.



### **Back to School Information**

**Arrival Time:** The school day begins at 8:35 a.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m. Students are required to be in homerooms by 8:35 a.m. Any student arriving after 8:35 a.m. will be considered tardy and are to report to the guidance office for a Tardy Slip.



**Student Drop off Time:** Students may be dropped off at school beginning at 8:10 a.m. No supervision will be provided prior to 8:10 a.m.

**Absence from School:** *It is your child's responsibility to obtain any missed assignments* either from a classmate, the homework hotline or from their teachers upon their return to school. If your child is absent from school for **three or more** consecutive days, you may make arrangements for homework by contacting the school; we do ask that you give 24-hour notice for this request.

**Special Activities Attendance:** Periodically special activities may be planned for Sykesville Middle School students. Only students attending Sykesville Middle are permitted to attend these activities unless prior approval has been granted by the administration. It is important to arrange for transportation home no later than 15 minutes after the end of the scheduled activity.

Students who are absent from school on the day of a special evening activity must obtain approval from the school's administration before attending the activity.

Students are responsible for demonstrating good conduct and following school rules during all school related activities. Failure to do so could result in losing the privilege to attend future activities

**Early Dismissal:** When it is necessary to pick up your student during normal school hours, we have found the following procedures to be helpful:

- Have your child bring a note to the guidance office before school with the reason for leaving and time of dismissal. Your student will be given a pass with your requested time of dismissal to come to the office and sign out.
- Students will NOT be excused to leave the school with anyone except the parent/legal guardian or other authorized person(s) listed on the Emergency Card.
- For safety reasons, authorized person(s) are required to pick up students in the main office and show proper identification.

**Lunch Tickets:** Students who need to charge lunch may do so by obtaining a Lunch Charge Ticket from the office. Charges are to be paid the following day before school at the office. Students may not have more than one (1) lunch charge at a time. We would appreciate monies borrowed from the office in the form of cash so that we can replenish the lunch charge fund.

**Visitors/Volunteers:** We welcome parents and visitors to our school. Please remember before going to any area of the building, visitors/volunteers are required to sign in at the Main Office and wear a visitor label at all times.

**Homework Hotline:** The Homework Hotline will be turned on at 4:00 p.m. To use the Homework Hotline call 410-751-3142 or 410-795-9081 after office hours. *It is suggested to have your child's schedule available when calling for homework.*

Use the following extensions to access the homework hotline:

Team 1 – ext. 1274  
Team 2 – ext. 1275  
Team 3 – ext. 1276  
Team 4 – ext. 1277  
Team 5 – ext. 1278  
Team 6 – ext. 1279  
Team 7 – ext. 1280  
Team 8 – ext. 1281  
Team 9 – ext. 1308



**Emergency Procedure Cards:** During the first day of school your child will be receiving several items of important information, one of which will be their Emergency Cards. It is important that you review the information that is pre-printed on the Emergency Card and make any corrections. Be sure to include your child's grade, homeroom teacher, locker and bus number. Complete and accurate information is necessary should we need to contact you for any medical emergency. Please provide the name of your family physician and dentist. We ask that you prioritize emergency contacts using the numbers 1, 2, or 3, etc. Parents must indicate all the names of people you may want to pick up your child during the school day. **PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN THE CARDS AND RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY. All incomplete cards will be returned home.**

**Bus Transportation:** Pupils may not ride buses other than the one that regularly transports them to school and from school.

*Transportation Policy States: Each student is to have one AM and one PM bus stop. Exceptions to this policy will be granted only on an emergency basis by the school administration.*

**Legal Custody of Children:** It is extremely important to keep the school informed of any custody agreements concerning your child. An official court order or court document is required to establish guidelines for custody and/or restrictions. Please contact the school immediately if there is a change in the custody situation of your child.

**School Pictures:** Individual student pictures will be taken on September 24th. Additional information regarding packages and pricing will be available at a later date.

**Board of Education Student Policy Handbook:** All students will receive this handbook on the first day of school, which outlines uniform school and Board of Education policies related to students. We would ask that parents review these policies with your child(ren) and keep this handbook available for reference throughout the school year.



## Guidance

### President's Education Awards Program

Honoring student achievement and hard work is the purpose of the President's Education Program. The program has provided individual recognition from the President and the U.S Secretary of Education to those students whose outstanding efforts have enabled them to meet challenging standards of excellence. The awards include a certificate signed by the President, the Secretary of Education, and the school principal.

Students receiving this award must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.09 scale. In addition to this the students must have obtained an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher in math or reading on the National Standardized Test.

The Sykesville Middle School Presidential Academic Awards ceremony was held in June to honor students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade who have achieved academic excellence throughout their middle school years.

We would like to congratulate the recipients of the Presidential Academic Awards for 2008-2009 and wish continued success.

Kellie Graham

Guidance Counselor

## Health Room



### Nurse's Notes

The end of summer is quickly approaching, which means the first day of school is here. I would like to review some key items, which will help us all be prepared and make those first days run smoothly.

**All medication**, for student use during the school day, must be brought in by an **adult** in its original container with a completed medication consent form. The age appropriate doses of Tylenol and Advil/Motrin only need a parent's signature on the form. If your child is not 12 years of age, he/she will have to take the children's form of the above medication, unless your doctor also signs the medication form. All other over-the-counter and prescription medication must have a parent and doctor's signature on the medication form. Students may bring the following items to school: saline solution for contacts, non-medicated throat drops, sunscreen, hand lotion, and wrapped anti-bacterial hand wipes. There is a copy of the medication form for CCPS in this newsletter for your use.

Students who have Fall allergies or who have allergy or exercise induced asthma need to have medication in the Health Suite at beginning of the year. **The students will start off the year outside for PE preparing to run the mile. This is a much healthier and more pleasant experience for the student if medication is at school for them to use to prepare for this event.** If for any reason your child cannot participate in PE for more than a week, a letter stating such must be completed by the child's doctor and brought to school. If there is not a return to full activity date on that letter, you will need to get a release note from the MD for your child to return to PE.

I will be at school starting August 18<sup>th</sup> so if you have any concerns, let's get together and come up with a plan that will provide the best care for your child.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Beth Harkins BSN  
Sykesville Middle School Nurse

## Outdoor School

Outdoor School for Sykesville Middle 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be the following weeks:

October 19-23      October 26-30      November 2-6      November 9-13      November 16-20

Specific dates for your child will be announced at a later time.

## 2009-2010 Yearbooks

Yearbooks will go on sale later this year. Look for information in the October newsletter.

## Labels for Education

We will be collecting labels and box tops for education once again this year. There is a Campbell's receptacle located in the cafeteria for the labels and box tops.

## Volunteer Information

### VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Sykesville students and staff benefit in so many ways due to the encouragement, talents and time given by dedicated parents and families. Whether you can give an occasional hour or commit to a regular schedule at the school or for a PTA Committee, you are much needed and highly appreciated!

If you're interested in serving, please complete the enclosed Volunteer Information Form and bring it with you to the Meet the Teacher Night **or** deliver it to the Main Office. The Volunteer Coordinators will give your name and phone number to the appropriate committee chairs. Thank you for all your help!!

## Volunteer Training

All volunteers are required to attend the **annual** training *and* complete a standard Volunteer Information Form at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering. Volunteer trainings are offered in many schools in the county. Below is a list of trainings offered at Sykesville Middle School. Check the September newsletter **or** our website [www.carrollk12.org/sykesville](http://www.carrollk12.org/sykesville) for a list of all trainings in the county.

Date	Time	Location
August 20 <sup>n</sup>	6:30 pm	Cafeteria (precedes 6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Parent Meet the Teacher Night)
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Cafeteria (precedes 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Meet the Teacher Night)

## CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

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The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, 410-751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or [publicinfo@carrollk12.org](mailto:publicinfo@carrollk12.org), or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

7/99

(Revised 7/02)

(Revised 7/13/09)

### NOTICE

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A. H. E. R. A.) management plans for all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County Public Schools are available for review at the individual Carroll County School locations and at the Office of Plant Operations located at: 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, Md 21157. Management plans are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action projected for any asbestos-containing materials, if any are located in the school building.

## CONSENT AND RELEASE

### Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

**If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or the school website, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website by the school system unless such notification is received.**

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

### Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

**There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.**

7/8/09

# SYKESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Thursday, August 13, 2009

12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sixth grade, new students and parents are invited to the school for self-guided tours of the building. Maps will be provided. The school nurse will be in the Health Suite for anyone needing to drop off medications. Office staff will also be available to answer any questions.



# Sykesville Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meet the Teacher Night August 20, 2009



## Schedule of Events:

- 6:30 p.m. Volunteer Training (Cafeteria)
- 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Meet the Teacher Night

The format for the evening will be to follow your student's schedule that will be handed out in homeroom. Teachers will be explaining programs for each class. Meet the Teacher Night will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to be in your child's homeroom at this time.

## **Helpful information for Meet the Teacher Night**

### **Parking**

Please follow the direction of the staff for parking. We will be parking cars on the fields at the school. There will be ample parking for all.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Room number for Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_



Carroll County Public Schools  
125 North Court Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157

# News Release

For Immediate Release

Charles I. Ecker, Superintendent

## School System Announces New Parent Communication System

The Carroll County Public School System is now using the AlertNow Rapid Communication Service to provide parents with information from their child's school and the school system. AlertNow replaces eSchoolnewsletter and is capable of delivering both e-mail and phone alerts at no charge to parents.

AlertNow was piloted in six Carroll County schools during the 2008-2009 school year. Positive feedback and valuable input has been received from the participating schools and parents.

Among the enhanced capabilities of AlertNow is a feature that allows the schools to send phone alerts to parents. Phone alerts will be limited to high priority and emergency messages such as:

- closings or delays due to inclement weather or emergencies
- attendance calls
- cancellation of school activities
- interim report and report card reminders.

Other information will be sent via e-mail. Examples include:

- school newsletters
- announcements of upcoming events and activities
- parent group updates
- information from the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools.

According to Stephen Guthrie, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, "The AlertNow electronic newsletter and telephone calling system provides a great vehicle for the school system to enhance our communications to the Carroll County school community for not only routine information but in emergency situations as well."

Parents and guardians will not need to subscribe to this communication system. All contact information will be taken from the student information system, which is based on the information provided on the emergency procedure cards. This will provide schools with the flexibility to target newsletters and other communications to parents of students by grade, homeroom teacher, bus number, and other criteria.

Schools will begin sending communications using the AlertNow system in August.

# # #

Contact: Stephen Guthrie, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, 410-751-3127  
Carey Gaddis, Supervisor of Community and Media Relations, 410-751-3020  
Darby Ashmore, Manager of Technology Administration, 410-751-3163

CG/bb  
7/9/09

## **Distribution of the School & PTO Newsletter**

Future School and PTO newsletters will be sent to you via **AlertNow** and contain a link that will connect you to the current copy of the School/PTO newsletter. If you still prefer a hardcopy, please fill out the information on the bottom portion of this notice.

Please note, the School Newsletter at the beginning of each school year with class information and other important start-up information will continue to be mailed to each student's home during the month of August.

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If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, please fill out this portion and return it with your child to his/her homeroom teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Homeroom



Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **PTO NEWS**

I hope everyone is having a great summer! It is so hard to believe that in just a few weeks we will be heading back to school.

On behalf of the PTO, I would like to welcome all of our new families as well as our returning families. I would also like to invite each one of you to become members of our organization. Sign-ups will be held at both Back to School nights on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and September 10<sup>th</sup> for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents.

Our monthly PTO meetings will now be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Media Center. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. This year we are implementing “parent academies” that will be held in conjunction with these meetings and occur several times throughout the year. These academies will offer topics on a variety of subjects affecting your middle school child.

We have many activities planned for the upcoming school year including a new fundraiser to be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> and our first social night for students on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas and encourage you to become actively involved in the PTO. Please don't wait to become involved at SMS. The years will go by before you know it and it's such an important time to stay connected with your child and their school.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!

Kim Haines  
410-552-6898  
hainesfive@verizon.net



# Sykesville Middle School PTO...

## Supporting school programs to benefit all of our children

SMS PTO's annual membership drive is approaching. Membership prices for 2009-2010 are \$5.00 per person. Again this year 100% of the fees collected stay in our school. Don't forget to sign up dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors.

Our membership drive will be going on throughout the months of August, September and October. However, new members are welcome anytime throughout the school year at PTO meetings and as new students enter SMS. Please consider joining the PTO, *your membership helps support school programs that benefit all of our children.*

Once again we will be adding some fun and friendly competition to our membership drive. Students in the homeroom in each grade with the most members signed up by October 16 will receive a ticket for a free ice cream from the school cafeteria. (If you have children in more than one grade or homeroom, your membership will be counted toward each child's homeroom total.)\*

Please return completed form and payment at 6<sup>th</sup> grade walk thru, at any back to school night, or in an envelope addressed to **PTO Membership** by October 16. Checks may be made payable to **SMS PTO**.

Thank you for your support,

Connie Shannon, Membership

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**Sykesville Middle School PTO**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all Sykesville Middle Students in your family:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include student's name and homeroom assignment in order to track which homeroom has the most participation for a free ice cream.