



Hutchinson Middle School

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Parent Newsletter

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A New School Year

~Welcome Change~

Hi-I am the new Principal of Hutchinson Middle School. I am delighted to be here, working with an amazing staff team. I am also very excited to get to know your son or daughter and help them grow to their fullest potential over the course of this year. It is hard to believe we are starting the month of October. I hope your child has expressed a strong interest in school this year and feels the support and community within our school. It really is a great place to

learn and grow.

I am looking forward to meeting you in the near future, if I haven't met you yet. I have been in every classroom several times throughout the past few weeks. I have observed engaged students in daily learning. I may have sat next to your son or daughter in class and asked "What are you learning today?" I supervise lunch each day so I have an opportunity to get to know your child in unstructured time. I have also attended



many events of our students from athletics to various activities. I want them to know I care about them and support them. I am looking forward to meeting you and learning about the Hopes and Dreams of your middle schooler. It is going to be a great year!



Learning Targets



When your son or daughter returns home from school, ask what the learning targets were in classes today. Learning Targets are posted in every classroom and discussed with students on a

daily basis. Research shows if students clearly know what they are to learn and be able to do as a result of the lesson, they will achieve more, the information will be retained and engagement increases. This year learn-

ing targets are part of *"How we teach at Hutchinson Middle School."*

Ask your child about the daily Learning Targets and listen to their response.



Academic Homeroom Advisors and Regular Homeroom

Students have both a grade level Academic Homeroom Advisor and a regular Homeroom Advisor (mixed grades).

The Academic Homeroom Advisor meets with students on Monday and Friday during Homeroom time. The Academic Advisor also works with your son/daughter each day during study hall time for 30 minutes. You will meet with your child's Academic Homeroom Advisor during Parent Teacher Conferences. Academic Homeroom Advisor's will be reaching out to you to set up a time for Parent Teacher Conferences, if

they have not already done so. It is important to build a relationship with your child's Academic Homeroom Advisor.

They monitor your child's progress and have many "check-ins" with your child during the week. **Relationships** are key in middle school. Teachers are developing strong relationships with their students so students have at least one adult in our school who they feel comfortable approaching for answers to questions, advice, help, etc.

Regular Homeroom Advisors work in a mixed grade level homeroom on Tues-Wed-Thur.

The purpose is to develop relationships across grade levels. Students and staff participate in team building activities during their mixed grade level homeroom. This past week homeroom doors were decorated as part of our Homecoming Week's celebrations. My advice to parents is get to know your child's Academic Homeroom Advisor. By working as a team, with the best interests of students in mind, think of what your child will accomplish.

~We are stronger together~



Parent Camp at Hutchinson Middle School. Parent Camp is an evening where parents and staff come together to discuss topics of interest. A session board is created based on topics that parents want to learn

Don't Miss the Next Parent Camp

Last week we offered our first

more about or discuss. There were twelve choices on the session board, with topics ranging from how to help my child with math homework, vaping 101 information, reading strategies, How does Google Classroom work?, etc. We will be hosting more Parent Camps throughout the year based on topics that parents select. It is a

great way to talk to other parents about topics we are all interested in. Parents stated they obtained many new ideas from both the session facilitators as well as other parents.

Date of the next Parent Camp is coming soon.

~We learn together~

Hopes and Dreams

Grade 8 Link Team students asked Grade 6 students during orientation “What are your Hopes and Dreams?” I posted all the sticky notes with their written answers for everyone to see. It was a great activity. Please continue this conversation at home throughout the year with your son or daughter. It is not too early to begin to think about “What do I want to be when I grow up?” and “What do I need to do this year to help me achieve that dream? During the first week of school,

What are Your Hopes and Dreams for the 2019-20 School Year?



teachers also asked students this question. Please take time at home to continue to explore the strengths your child has and how their aptitudes might align with a future career. Support exploring new apti-

tudes and talents during their middle school years. There are so many activities to be involved in for exploration.

~Involvement in activities leads to new talents and aptitudes discovered~

Parents as Partners~Core Beliefs

“It takes a village” is a phrase used when working in a partnership. Parents—We Need You!

Core Belief #1: All Parents Have Hopes and Dreams for Their Children and Want the Best for Them.

Core Belief #2: All Parents Have the Capacity to Support Their Children’s Learning.

Core Belief #3: Parents and School Staff Should be Equal Partners.

Core Belief #4 : The Responsibility for Building Partnerships Between School and Home Rests Primarily with School Staff, Especially School Leaders.

(*Beyond the Bake Sale*, 2007)



Educating the Whole Child

At Hutchinson Middle School we strive to educate the “whole child.” What does that mean?

Safe-We provide a safe learning environment, where students will feel comfortable and safe taking positive risks.

Supported-Students are supported in many ways depending on their needs. Staff will go out of their way to support your child.

Challenged-Learning can be challenging at times. It is ok to work through class content problems, situations, etc. with some struggle. The greatest learning can happen with struggle.

Healthy-Our staff keep a good pulse on each student to ensure they are provided a healthy learning environment. They also look for signs of mental health needs and follow

up. Balanced meals, water, exercise and activities help develop a healthy adolescent.

Engaged-Classrooms at HMS are full of engaging learning opportunities. Staff understand adolescent students and incorporate student interests into their teaching.

~Provide Whole Child Opportunities at Home for your Child~

Parent Teacher Conferences

The opportunity is fast approaching to meet your child's Academic Homeroom Advisor during Parent Teacher Conferences. Teachers look forward to meeting with you and your child at conference time. We want to highlight the strengths your son or daughter have.

Teachers also want to discuss areas to work on. We are all focused on continual growth and improvement.

Conferences will be on:
Tuesday, Oct. 15
(3:00pm-7:00pm)
and
Wednesday, Oct 16
(7:00am-1:00pm)

What Do I Ask At Parent Teacher Conferences?

Parent Teacher Conferences should be a two way conversation. Parents want to learn about how their child is doing in school and teachers want to learn more from you about your child.

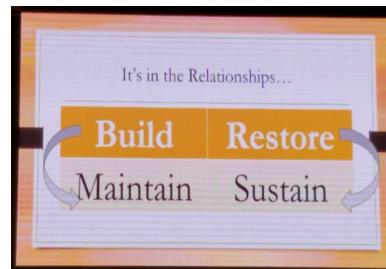


Here are a few helpful questions to ask your child's teacher at conference time:

- 1) *Learn about the strengths and talents your child demonstrates at school. What are things my child is doing really well?*
- 2) *Ask your child's teacher about homework and assignments specific to the class. Has my child been turning in assignments and completing homework as expected?*
- 3) *You should ask about social and emotional health. Do you notice any social or emotional concerns?*
- 4) *How are you challenging my child or differentiating instruction to meet my child's needs?*
- 5) *Partnership between home and school. What is an area we can work on at home?*

Moving to Restorative Practice

Our middle school and high school staff recently participated in a restorative practice foundation training. What that means is we will be implementing skills and techniques over the next few years to include less punitive consequences when students make mistakes. This will consist of building a network of relationships among people in our school between staff, students, families and our community. When situations occur, we will work to repair relationships and repair harm. We will be re-examining discipline practices using more restorative approaches and less punitive consequences.



We have found punitive consequences are not very successful to change a behavior. This system will take time to implement and we will continue to communicate with parents on our progress.

~Opportunity for teaching and re-teaching~

Post your selfie photo's on Twitter and tag them with

#MuchinHutch

Fun Family Challenge

Join our staff with a fun Hutchinson fall season challenge. Our city has 22 sculptures located all around town. See how many you can locate and take a selfie photo by each one. Challenge another parent to do the same and compare your photo's. You will see our middle school staff out and about through the month of October locating the sculptures. Join us in this fun city wide event. Ride your bike, walk, enjoy family time. Can you locate all 22 Hutchinson sculptures? The sculpture map is located at:

<http://hutchinsonpublicarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Sculpture-Stroll-Map.pdf>

