



## Chauncey H. Duker School

3711 West Kane Avenue  
McHenry, Illinois 60050  
Phone: (815) 344-7125  
Fax: (815) 363-5024  
[www.d15.org/duker](http://www.d15.org/duker)

August 20, 2010

Volume #10 Issue #1

---

**Principal:** Mrs. Debra Holliday ([dholliday@d15.org](mailto:dholliday@d15.org))

**Assistant Principal:** Mr. Richard Vannoy ([rvannoy@d15.org](mailto:rvannoy@d15.org))

---

**District 15 Mission Statement:** McHenry Elementary School District 15 is a child-centered community that values connections between people and learning in an environment fostered by mutual respect.

---

### IMPORTANT DATES

August 19-August 30	Fall Fundraiser
Thursday, August 26	State test scores (ISAT's) go home
Monday, August 30	Fundraiser ends (all orders and money should be turned in)
Monday, August 30	Band begins at MMS for percussion, flute, oboe
Tuesday, August 31	Band begins at MMS for clarinets and saxophones
Wednesday, September 1	Band begins at MMS for brass
Thursday, September 2	Full band at MMS (all band students attend)
Month of September	Character Counts focus is on being Trustworthy
Friday, September 3	Institute Day---NO SCHOOL
Monday, September 6	Labor Day---NO SCHOOL
Sunday, September 12	Walk-A-Thon at Riverwood School-sign in at 7:00AM Walk begins at 8:00AM

---

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### FIFTH GRADE CHALLENGER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE---

Monday, September 13	Miss Prater's class
Tuesday, September 14	Mrs. Nellesen & Mrs. Ulrich's classes
Wednesday, September 15	Mrs. Calhoun & Mrs. Willemarck's classes
Thursday, September 16	Mr. Cerney & Mrs. Jozwiak's classes
Friday, September 17	Miss Christl, Mrs. Krofel & Mrs. Eberhard's classes

Monday, September 20      Picture Day (all students will be photographed)

**NOTES FROM MRS. HOLLIDAY (Principal)**---Our school year is off to a GREAT start!. On August 16<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed 524 fourth and fifth grade students. We are looking forward to a great year here at Duker School, filled with learning and fun! For all of those families new to Duker School, I welcome you! For all of those returning fifth grade families, I hope you had a great summer and we are glad you are back! If you should have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to call me or email me at [dholliday@d15.org](mailto:dholliday@d15.org).

---

**NOTES FROM MR. VANNOY (Assistant Principal)**---This year at Duker School, we will be continuing a program called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a school-wide plan that encourages positive and appropriate school behaviors. Our PBIS program has 4 universal expectations (they apply to all people in all setting of the school building and grounds.) They are **S**afety, **O**wnership, **A**chievement and **R**espect (**SOAR**). Your child has likely already told you about **SOAR**. We had a kick-off assembly and some follow-up programs during the first week of school. The universal expectations will be the context for teaching and reinforcing student behavior this year. Among other positive activities going on this year, **SOAR** cards will be given to students who appropriately demonstrate **S**afety, **O**wnership, **A**chievement and **R**espect. Cards can be used at our **SOAR** store. In addition, all those who received cards during the prior week will be recognized at a Monday morning assembly each week. We are very excited about this program and ask that you keep **SOAR** in mind as you ask your child about his/her day. Feel free to call if you have any questions about the program.

---

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF**---Miss Heitz (ESL), Mrs. Morris (Speech), Miss Mangold (SEDOM teacher), Mrs. Ditore and Miss Sullivan (SEDOM assistants), Mr. Bedoya (Interpreter/Translator), Mrs. Richards (assistant), Miss Paul (5<sup>th</sup> grade band at MMS) and Mrs. Cantwell (Kitchen). Welcome!

---

**DUKER DRAGONTALES**---You should see a copy of the Duker Dragontales, our school newsletter, every other Friday. We ask that you look for your copy and ask your child to see it. It is filled with a lot of information to keep you informed about what is happening in the school and also in the community. The Duker Dragontales is also posted on the school's website.

---

**PTO NEWS**---The PTO is a highly involved group committed to organizing and sponsoring educational experiences for ALL students here at Duker School. The PTO fundraising events bring in funds to support programs and purchase equipment that are outside of our regular school budget. As a parent here at Duker School, you are automatically a member of the PTO. Please consider contributing your time, energy and talents as a volunteer. Everything that the PTO does is for the students. All parents are welcome to attend monthly meetings held in our Learning Center. The first meeting is Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. at 7:00 PM. Meetings meet on the third Tuesday of the month, with the exception of December (no meeting that month).

The PTO Board is: Co-Presidents-Barb Sharp and Carrie Willemarck; Treasurer-Gary Garwood; and Secretary-Laura Zalinger. Our teacher reps are: Mrs. Justen, Mrs. Rockers and Mrs. Vallianatos. Yesterday began our Fall Fundraiser. You should already have information packets and details. The fundraiser ends on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Pick-up date is October 14th (will need parent help with this). Limo ride and MegaEvent is October 21<sup>st</sup>. Details about these dates are included in the fundraiser information. Please help us with this fundraiser if you can! It sponsors all assemblies, some field trips and other activities offered in addition to the educational program at the school.

**EMERGENCY FORMS**---Please advise the school office of any changes that are made to parent and emergency contact information as soon as possible throughout the school year. It is very important that we always have the most up-to-date information for the school office and the health office. If you change jobs, move, get a new cell phone number, change babysitters or change authorized relative/friends who may pick up your child, we need that information. Please remember that only the people who you listed on the emergency form should pick up your child.

---

**E-MAILS**---If you send us an e-mail and you do not receive a reply from us, please follow-up with a phone call. Our e-mail filter system often will throw your e-mail in a junk file if it doesn't recognize your address as a known sender. We respond to all e-mails, so please keep this in mind.

---

**FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE (Mrs. Horton)**---Here are a few reminders as we start the new school year:

- Any student taking medication at school must have a "Request to Administer Medicine" form completed by both a parent and a physician. All medication must be brought in by an adult. **STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CARRY MEDICATION TO OR FROM SCHOOL.**
- The McHenry County Department of Health is requesting a daily report of symptoms and illness that are in our schools. This is to help them track current illnesses. When calling in a sick student, you will be asked what symptoms your child has so we can report to the Health Department. We do not report any names, only symptoms! As always, if your child is diagnosed with Respiratory Influenza or Chickenpox, please notify the school so we can notify the Health Department.
- As stated in the Student Handbook, it is not possible to contact parents regarding every visit to the Health Office. Parents will be notified of a serious injury. Our basic guideline for calling a parent regarding an illness is if the child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. If you have any special guidelines or circumstances when you would like to be contacted, please call the Health Office and let me know.
- If your child has been ill, please do not send him/her to school until he/she is well. A child should be fever and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child is at school, it is our assumption that they are healthy enough to take part in regular school activities, including outside recess.
- The Health Office has a minimal supply of extra clothing. Please consider sending a change of clothing for your child's locker.

Thanks for your cooperation. If you ever have any health questions or concerns, feel free to contact me in the Health Office.

---

**REMINDERS**---Please help our school earn money with your empty InkJet and toner cartridges and old cell phones. Some empty cartridges are worth up to \$12 each. There are recycling containers on the east side of the school for paper only. Not only are we earning money for the school, but we're also helping to teach our children the value of recycling.

Please save Campbell's Soup labels, Kemp's milk lids, Nestle's Pure Life Purified bottled water labels, and Boxtops for Education. As an incentive to participate in the BoxTops program, we hold a monthly drawing. The winner and a friend will get to have lunch from a local restaurant with Mrs. Holliday and Mr. Vannoy. All you need to do is write your child's name on the back of each boxtop sent in. There is a collection box for these in the office. Target, Meijer's and Office Depot also offer incentives to the school if you choose Duker School as the recipient of a percentage of your purchases. Please consider doing this!

**BAND NEWS FROM MISS PAUL**---To all 5<sup>th</sup> grade band members...Band starts August 30th. Make sure to bring your instrument and book to school and be ready for the bus to MMS at 3:03PM. I look forward to working with the flutes, oboes and percussion on Monday, the clarinets and saxophones on Tuesday, all of the brass on Wednesday, and then seeing everyone for full band on Thursday. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.  
Musically yours, Miss Paul ([lpaul@d15.org](mailto:lpaul@d15.org))

---

**NEWS FROM THE LUNCHROOM**---E-Pay schedule---E-Pay will be open for the entire year for elementary lunches only. You may pre-pay up to 25-\$2.00 lunches at one time. E-Pay will be picked up every Monday only. So, if you pay on Wednesday, it will not go into effect until the following Monday. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Debbie Struck, Director of Food Services at 1-815-759-8501 or 1-815-385-7210.

---

**FEDERAL AND STATE TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE**---AARP and the Illinois Commerce Commission want residents to “stay connected” and are encouraging those who need phone service but can’t afford it to contact their local phone company to sign up for the federal Lifeline or state Link-Up telephone service assistance. Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate and are eligible for certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of \$10 a month. The federal Link-up America program will pay one-half (up to \$30) of the initial installation fee for traditional land-line telephone service or activation fee for a wireless service for a primary residence. It also allows participants to pay the remaining amount owed on a deferred schedule, interest-free. The state’s Link-Up program provides an additional benefit of up to \$12 on installation charges for telephone service to eligible program participants in Illinois. For more information on the Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs, visit the Illinois Commerce Commission website at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/lifelineandlinkup>.

---

**ATTENDANCE INFORMATION**---It’s a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful than students who do not. Parents who make regular school attendance a priority also are helping their children learn to accept responsibility. That’s an important lesson for a successful life. Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school careers. That’s important, because students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions and are more likely to fall behind.  
What can you do?

- Let your child know that you expect him/her to attend school every day. Explain that, just as you have a job, it’s her/his job to go to school and learn.
- Set a time and place for doing homework each evening and a time for going to bed. Unfinished homework and too little sleep are common reasons why parents hear the words, “I don’t feel good,” on school mornings.
- Make medical and other appointments during non-school hours whenever possible. Schedule family vacations during school holidays or the summer recess so that students aren’t missing important lessons and struggling to make up for lost ground.
- Keep track of your child’s absences. Excessive absences might be a sign of other problems. If absences are common, talk with your child and enlist the help of his/her teachers or pediatrician. Working as a team can help improve your child’s attendance.
- School hours are 8:30-3:03 (for shuttles). Try not to pick up your child early!

