

Chauncey H. Duker School

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Principal: Mrs. Debra Holliday (dholliday@d15.org)

Assistant Principal: Mr. Rich Vannoy (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

Thursday, August 20	Fall Fundraiser begins
Tuesday, August 25	Band Begins (details will be coming)
Monday, September 7	Labor Day---NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 8	Fall fundraiser ends Public Forum (7:00 PM) and Board of Education (7:30 PM) meetings at Parkland School
Wednesday, September 9	Market Day pick-up at Edgebrook School 3:30-5:00 PM
Sunday, September 13	Walking for Words---5K run/walk-a-thon for Literacy, Riverwood School, (flyers came home on first day)
Tuesday, September 15	PTO meeting in the Learning Center--- All parents are invited and encouraged to attend, 6:30 PM
Thursday, September 17	Midquarter Reports go home
Friday, September 18	Institute Day---NO SCHOOL
Thursday, September 24	Picture Day---all students will be photographed for the yearbook

CHARACTER COUNTS WORD FOR AUGUST IS CITIZENSHIP.
CHARACTER COUNTS WORD FOR SEPTEMBER IS TRUSTWORTHINESS.

NOTES FROM MRS. HOLLIDAY (Principal)---WELCOME BACK! Our school year is off to a GREAT start! On August 17th, we welcomed 495 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.

NOTES FROM MR. VANNOY (Assistant Principal)---This year at Duker School, we will be continuing a new program called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a school-wide plan that encourages positive and appropriate behaviors in school. Our PBIS program has 4 universal expectations (they apply to all people in all settings of the school building and grounds.) They are **Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect (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 **Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect**. Cards can be used at our new **SOAR** store. In addition, all those who received cards during the prior week will be recognized at a morning assembly. 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 Heather Schwall (Fourth Grade Teacher), Mrs. Karin Harmening (Bilingual Teacher), Mrs. Valerie Levenson (ESL Teacher), Mrs. Shari Gaul (Reading Specialist), Mr. Ed Wollrab (Beginning Band Teacher), Mrs. Kim Huemann (Resource Teacher), Mrs. Melissa Horton (School Nurse), Mrs. Lanna Brod (Reading Assistant), Mrs. Holly Sitko (Student Assistant), Mrs. Rebecca Turner (Student Assistant), Mrs. Judy Jurkowski (SEDOM Assistant), Mr. Scott Smessaert (Student Teacher). 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 15th, at 6:30 PM.

The PTO Board is: Co-Presidents-Korrin Bird and Barb Sharp; Treasurer-Ingrid Freund; Secretary-Suzy Chiapetta.

Yesterday began our Fall Fundraiser. You should already have information packets and details. The fundraiser ends on Tuesday, September 8th.

SCHOOL SPIRITWEAR---School Spiritwear order forms were sent home yesterday. School Spiritwear is clothing that is custom made with our Duker dragon logo and school name. The deadline for ordering is Thursday, September 3rd. Orders are usually delivered within a couple of weeks.

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 relatives/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 you 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!

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 the 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 YOU CAN DO?

1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. Keep track of your child's absences. Excessive absences might be a sign of other problems. If absences become 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.
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PUBLIC FORUM---On September 8th, from 7:00 PM-7:30 PM at Parkland School, the McHenry Elementary School District 15 Board of Education will be holding a public forum to solicit community input. The Board of Education is in the process of updating the district's strategic plan and would like to hear any ideas citizens may have to improve the education for all of our students. The current strategic plan is detailed on the district's website at www.d15.org. Please attend and offer your opinions. In addition, a survey will be available on the district's website by which you may offer your input.

McHENRY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES FALL HAPPENINGS---Fall program highlights include the Macy's Museum Adventure Pass program, in which you and your family can check out free passes to area museums, storyteller Kay Elmsley Weeden on October 6th, comic creator Russell Lissau on October 17th, and author Jennifer Ward on November 9th. We also have some scary Halloween programs for younger kids and face painting for older kids. Fall Storytimes begin September 14th, and our new Puppetime program begins September 17th. Our annual ComiCon comic conference will be held October 21st, and don't forget our free movies the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM, featuring new releases for ages 18 and up. We're starting a Lego Club and need donations of old or new Legos. For more information or to register for programs, go to www.mchenrylibrary.org, stop by on Route 31 south of Route 120, or call (815) 385-0036.

SCHOOL LUNCHES---The cost of lunch at school is \$2.00 for the menu hot lunch and \$1.00 for breakfast. There are several other selections available at different prices for breakfast and lunch besides the menu items. At Duker School, students keep track of their own money until they report to the cafeteria at lunch time. A price list for extra items available for lunch and breakfast is included below. Any student who forgets a lunch from home or lunch money for hot lunch will be given a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk. We do not allow lunches to be charged. Menu-Only hot lunches may be prepaid up to 20 lunches.

Deli Sandwich box lunch -\$2.50

Chips-50 cents

Chocolate chip cookie-50 cents

Nachos with cheese-\$1.25

Cheese cup-75 cents 2 oz. Cheese Cup-75 cents

Veggie tray or Fruit tray-\$2.00

Ice Cream-65 cents Malts-\$1.00

Muffins-65 cents

Bagel-50 cents

Cream Cheese-25 cents

Fig Newton cookie bars-50 cents

Rice Krispie treat-75 cents

Fruit Roll-up-50 cents

Fruit Snack-35 cents Gushers-50 cents

Yogurt-60 cents

Hot Pretzel-\$1.00

Home Juice 100% (12 oz)-75 cents

Bottled Water or Juice-\$1.00

100 Calorie Snack Packs-50 cents

Cereal Bars-75 cents

Pop Tart-75 cents

Cheddar Cheese Block-50 cents

Milk-35 cents

Registration for '09-'10 Run Your Life Community Clubs for Kids is now open!

Our Club Run Your Life age-based programs are the means to which we promote our core principles. They've been designed for children to have a safe place to learn, grow, have fun, and accept themselves fully. **Run Your Life was created as an addition to children's lives**, not in replacement of any activity they are already involved in; **a fun community club**. We believe that a **solid sense of community** is important in guiding children and creating a connectedness among its members. **We encourage kids to come as often as they can and we look forward to having them join in!**

What are our core principles?

- * **Running Our Lives:** Taking charge of our lives; not blaming others
- * **I Am Amazing!:** Everyone is amazing; embracing exactly who we are as well as respecting everyone for who they are as well
- * **Response-ability:** If we're feeling it, it's ours; we choose how we respond to situations
- * **It's All About Choices:** All choices have consequences, choose wisely; The choice game
- * **We're All in This Together:** Taking care of each other and the planet; Community 101: Plugging in

When and where do Clubs Run Your Life for Kids meet? (2nd & 4th Saturdays)

Sept. 26, Oct. 10 & 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 13 & 27, and Mar. 6th

***K-2nd Grade: 9-10:15AM, Edgebrook Elementary School, McHenry**

***3rd-5th Grade: 10:15-11:30AM, Edgebrook Elementary School, McHenry**

***6th-8th Grade: 6:30-8PM, Duker School, McHenry**

Our group is **very social** and **"group oriented"**. **Come "hang" with us!**

Family Open Gym & Game Time

When and where is Family Open Gym & Game Time?

Sunday afternoons, 12:30-2PM during the winter:

Nov. 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7, 21, and 28.

All families must fill out an activity release form and All children must be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

This is a great opportunity to get out of the house during the cold weather and play with your family. Come shoot some hoops in the gym or play a board game in the café...feel free to bring a favorite game from home. Remember to bring your basketball!

How do I join? Easy! Simply fill out an activity release form and send it in!

Each participant is required to have one on file in order to participate. Individual and family activity release forms are available on our website: www.runyourlife.org

Each participant must be registered to attend.

Questions? Please contact Charlene at: runyourlife@sbcglobal.net or call 815.861.5074.

Mark Your Calendars! Bingo Fundraiser for Adults Only at The Moose Lodge, Oct. 12th