

Dear ACE Families--

The first week continues to run energetically and smoothly. Students are getting to know each other and their teachers, learning routines, and finding their way around. As always, we are watching for any needed adjustments to placement and making changes where it seems suitable.

Morning drop-off: Thank you to all who are remembering to park well to the left of the dumpster. I appreciated a close space this morning when I had a large box and mail to carry in, and others in our staff often have packages to carry. Please keep those spaces free for that purpose.

Primary and elementary students who arrive between 7:30 and 8:10 should go to the Music Room on the second floor. The time until 8:10 is for our staff to prepare for the day. At 8:10, students in the music room will be released to go to their lockers and classrooms. This was in the Handbook simply as "before the start of school," so I want to make the timing clear.

Upstairs Schedules: Middle school and high school **schedules** went home yesterday. Elementary schedules went home TODAY--the one for parents to keep is orange, so it should show up in the backpack. Several students have expressed a desire to add fencing to their schedules, and we are working on how to fit that in. Fencing will not affect any academic or elective schedule, but be worked into somewhat malleable times such as part of lunch and recess. No one will miss lunch, but that mid-day block of time may be reallocated one day a week to accommodate fencing.

Dismissal: Our staggered dismissal is going well. In case you missed the note in the Handbook, **any young child with an older sibling getting out at a later time can go to Aftercare at no charge for that interim time.** For example, a Primary student released at 3:00 can play in aftercare at no charge until his elementary or middle school sibling gets out at 3:30.

Next week, we will begin Rose Garden drop-off and pick-up, which are intended to make those times even smoother. Stay tuned for details.

As a last reminder, our student groupings are multi-age/ability based and always have been. This can be a major part of the transition for parents and children who are used to grouping by birthdays. There is not an arbitrary grouping in the school. Please, if you have a question about your child's placement, ask Karen and me directly. We do not deal out kids like cards; each placement has been thoughtfully done, and we are happy to talk with you if you have any questions.

Looking forward to more of a great week--
Donna