



# SUFFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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DAMON PEARCE, Principal

ASHLEY EICHORN, Assistant Principal

Dear families,

I hope that your family has been enjoying the summer time relaxing and having fun. While it may be a little too early to expect that our students are devoting a lot of thought to the upcoming school year, we at SMS have been busily gearing up for 2017-18 and I would like to take this opportunity to review a couple of logistical items.

My guess is that if our students are thinking about school right now, their thoughts linger upon their schedule. If your household is anything like mine, the annual unveiling of the student schedules is THE event of the summer. It is at that time that students discover their team assignment and can share that information with their friends. Knowing this, we work as fast as we can to make schedules available. However, we are also committed to reviewing every individual schedule in order to catch mistakes and create the best possible scenario for your child. As you can imagine that takes a lot of time but I am happy to say that we have completed the review process and the PowerSchool portal is open. You and your child should be able to log on and view their schedule for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, Tom Kadamus and Tracy Scatolini, our two school counselors, will be back in the office on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, and will be available to address any concerns that you might have.

Technology is another topic that requires mention. All SMS students receive a Chromebook as part of the 1:1 Digital Learning Environment. We will distribute Chromebooks to all students within the first week of school. Families also have the option of providing their own district sanctioned personal device in lieu of a district-issued Chromebook. In addition, this letter included a form asking families if they wish to purchase Chromebook insurance. The completed form is due back at the middle school by August 31<sup>st</sup>. If the form is not returned, the student will be issued a Chromebook and he/she will assume full responsibility for the device.

I also have a celebratory note! On a gorgeous summer evening in July, Ashley Molden (our assistant principal) was married and is now Ashley Eichorn (pronounced Eye-corn). She may be reached at [AEichorn@suffield.org](mailto:AEichorn@suffield.org) beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>.

I truly hope that your child is looking forward to attending the middle school. We are blessed with a fun, energetic, and enthusiastic faculty who are committed to your child's success. Indeed, over the summer many staff members have already been meeting to plan curriculum for the upcoming year. The school's intramural athletics schedule has already posted on the school's web site. The winter and spring concerts have been scheduled. The Wingman program has selected a focus on team building for the year. The drama club has selected *Aladdin* as the school's production this year. There are lots of good things in store for 2017-18 at SMS. While we certainly do not want to wish summer to end, we are all looking forward to the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

***Damon Pearce***

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