

"WHAT I WISH I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL"

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF NEW STUDENTS AT WASHINGTON IRVING SCHOOL

The Irving parent community welcomes new parents and wants to get you off to a good start, so we have compiled a list of tips that may ease the transition. If you are unsure about things, please ask another parent or the staff. There is always help available.....

- o The first thing you need to know is where to go to line up the first day of school - a map of the school with line up locations is on the back
- o Our teachers and principal value children arriving on time for school so that all students are there when the day begins and disruptions are minimized. There is a line-up bell that rings at 7:57 and then a go-in bell that rings at 8:00. The regular entry doors are locked after 8:00 and your child needs to enter through the main office door, which is monitored by staff. All students who arrive after 8:00 are considered tardy, even those that are just a few minutes late.
- o Many children walk to school, some are dropped off by car, and some ride the bus (those on the north side of expressway who are in the Irving area and students with special needs). The streets around the school are filled with cars, buses and children just before 8:00. It can get chaotic! If possible, walk to school so the children and parents get to join "the Irving parade" and meet up with their friends. You also avoid the traffic tie-ups. If you drive and drop your kids off in front of the school, please don't stop in the middle of the street while they get out. Doing so blocks others from getting through and creates a lot of frustration. It can also be dangerous because children are walking in front of cars that may be pulling out. There are usually parking spaces right on Cuyler, further down, or on one of the side streets. For parents dropping off at the back of the building, Ridgeland is a very busy street. Please do not drop children off on the west side of the street unless you are certain that they will walk to the corner at Harvard where there is a crossing guard. Also, please do not pull into the staff parking lot at the back of the building to drop your children off or pick them up.
- o When it rains or is unusually cold, the children are let in the school early and the regular entrance doors are not open. On these days, drop your child off in front of the school, or use back door facing Ridgeland and the staff parking lot. The students will wait for the bell in the lunchroom (K-2) or the auditorium (3-5).
- o Wednesday is a shorter day. On Wednesdays, school is dismissed at 1:55 due to staff development sessions. Make sure you pick up your child promptly at 1:55 .
- o Every Tuesday, there will be a "Tuesday packet" in your child's backpack. The packet contains important announcements from the school and the district, as well as useful items for parents. This is a compilation of flyers and information that need to go home with the children for the
- o When you receive anything from the school that says "Return this form to the office", including lunch money, you can give it to your child to take to his or her teacher and the teacher will collect everything and make sure it gets to the office.

- o All students have a one hour break from 11:00 – 11:55 that includes lunch and recess. Some children get a hot lunch, some bring a lunch, and some go home for lunch. When a teacher takes attendance in the morning, he or she will ask each student which category they are in for that day. To take part in the hot lunch program you must pay in advance. Please refer to the Form and Fee Day packet (available at Form and Fee Day) or contact the lunchroom supervisor, Theresa Brown, for further details. Children who bring lunch can bring insulated lunch bags or boxes that are deposited in a basket and brought down to the lunchroom and then returned to the classroom after lunch. There is no place to refrigerate lunches that children bring from home or to heat items from home. If your child is going home for lunch, they can be picked up (or walk home with a note of permission) at 11:00, and return to school within the hour. Your child can return early so they can play at recess time with friends.
- o If you have computer access, Email is a good way to get in touch with your child's teacher or any school employee. You may also want to check out the District website at www.op97.org, which has links to the school sites and other helpful information, such as the school calendar.
- o Label everything a child does not have attached to their body (and even some things that are attached): coats, shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, hats, gloves, etc. If all else fails, there are lost and found lockers located on the first floor by room 110
- o Remember to send a pair of shoes to school when snow boots or rain boots are worn. You can also leave an extra pair in your child's locker during the wintertime.

For further information or if you have questions please contact our Parent Outreach and Support Team coordinator, **Alissa Lonergan** at talonergan@sbcglobal.net. Hope you and your kid(s) have a great year!

