

# NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## POQUESSING MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 2015

*Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:*

*Greetings from Poquessing Middle School! Welcome to new and returning students and their families; another year of learning is about to begin! We are ready for your arrival and hope this communication will provide you with valuable information for the 2015-16 school year!*

**The first day of school for grades 5 and 6 is Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**All students report on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Bus and schedule information is available on the Home Access Center.**

**School doors open at 7:25a.m. (at the earliest)**

**Dismissal is at 2:55p.m.**

*Over half of our student body is new this year as we welcome fifth grade and sixth grade to the middle school and we welcome back our seventh grade and eighth grade! We also welcome new students to the Poquessing community. Students entering Poquessing Middle School will enjoy new experiences, as well as challenges, which will help them grow academically, physically, and emotionally. Our expectation is that our students will "Be Kind" to one another. We believe that that being kind is easily accomplished.*

*Within the first few days of school, we will introduce our **SOAR program** to our new students and reintroduce it to our upperclassmen. This is a K-12 positive approach to school wide behavior through support and interventions. SOAR stands for **Stay Safe, Open to Success, Accept Responsibility, and Respect Self, Others and Property**. We will teach the behaviors we expect just as we teach reading, writing and math through mini-lessons. We will randomly reward students for exhibiting those behaviors as well and collect data to measure our efforts and reteach lessons as needed.*

*We are excited to have added a World Language program to the eighth grade, the 1:1 iPad Initiative to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades and Habits of the Mind to assist children in behaving intelligently when confronted with problems to all students.*

*A sense of pride and even greater accomplishments will result in a positive school experience with an emphasis on the whole child, through involvement in school activities and a commitment to excellence.*

*Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to open communication throughout the year as we facilitate the growth and development of your child through the middle years.*

*Joann Holland*

Principal

Main Office: 215-809-6210 Guidance Office: 215-809-6215 Attendance Office: 215-809-6211

### Structure for GRADES 5 THROUGH 8

5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	5G	5H
Mr. Cimino	Mrs. Boccagno	Mrs. Thierjung	Mr. Raivitch	Mr. Prendergast	Mrs. Burke	Mrs. Hess	Mrs. Kirk
Rm 209	Rm 210	Rm 212	Rm 211	Rm 213	Rm 215	Rm 217	Rm 219

TEACHER	ENGLISH	SOCIAL STUDIES	MATH	SCIENCE	READING
<b>TEAM A</b> <b>GRADE 6</b> 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E	Trepper Rm 206	Heilig Rm 204	Pecuch Rm 202	Richardson Rm 207	DeAlba/ Kornblau Rm 208
<b>TEAM B</b> <b>GRADE 7</b> 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E	Ganther/S Marte Rm 205/Rm 107	Glaser/Scott Rm 201/104	Zuschnitt Rm 200	Brown Rm 203	Farr Rm 108
<b>TEAM C</b> <b>GRADE 7</b> 7F, 7G	S. Marte Rm 107	Scott Rm 104	Page Rm 102	Schneider Rm 114	Ganther/Barnes Rm 112
<b>GRADE 8</b> 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G	T Marte/S Marte Rm 113/Rm 107	Palkovics/Scott Rm 119/104	Presner/Page/Gerber Rm 106/102	Pulford/Schneider Rm 116/114	Mann/Riddell 108/112

### IMPORTANT DATES



- Back to School Night – Thursday, September 17<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Meet your child's teachers and learn about our program.



- School Picture Day – Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION



- **ACTIVITY BUSES-**
  - 4:15 p.m. Monday - Thursday for students participating in clubs and intramural sports.
  - 5:15 p.m. Monday - Friday for PIAA 7-8 sports and afterschool music activities.

- **BOOK BAGS** - are not permitted during the school day to facilitate school safety. As students arrive in the building they are required to place their book bags in their lockers. Students should carry only those items required for the first three classes. Two 5-minute locker breaks are provided each day (10:30 a.m. and 12:41 p.m. During locker break students will exchange their materials for the next assigned classes. Small gym bags containing a change of clothes on days when students have an assigned PE or swimming class will be permitted. These must be kept under the student's desk during regular classes. Books and other school supplies may not be carried in gym bags.
- **CAFETERIA CHATTER** – Visit the Neshaminy web site for detailed information about menus, nutrition and prepayment options. All Neshaminy cafeterias have the computerized “Point of Sale Payment System.” Each student has an account for the prepayment of all purchases made in the cafeteria. Prepayment can be made with cash or by a check made payable to **Neshaminy Food Service**.
  - **NEW** Sign-up on [www.parentonline.net](http://www.parentonline.net)
  - **NEW!** The school board has approved the lunch price increase to \$3.00 for secondary schools. Breakfast has been increased to \$1.50. Please plan accordingly.
- **GUIDANCE: THE GUIDANCE OFFICE CAN BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY AT 215-809-6215.**

*COUNSELOR assignments are as follows:*

*GRADE 5: Mrs. LENAHAN*

*GRADE 6: MR. PASSMAN*

*GRADE 7: MRS. ABROHMS*

*GRADE 8: Last Names A-F – MR. PASSMAN*

*GRADE 8: Last Names G-Mc – MRS. LENAHAN*

*GRADE 8: Last Names Me –Z – MRS. ABROHMS*

- **INSPIRE CREDIT UNION-SCHOOL BANK BRANCH**- Poquessing students with parent permission may become credit union members. Inspire will offer financial literacy seminars throughout the school year to our students. The credit union is NOT open to the public. More information will be forthcoming!
- **INTRAMURAL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**- We offer a comprehensive intramural program as well as extracurricular activities for students after school. This program is designed for all students who want to be involved in an activity at any grade level including grade 5 & 6 students. Some of these activities include: cheerleading, band, chorus, orchestra, student council, school store, yearbook, Reading Olympics, basketball, weight training, computer club, etc...More information will be forthcoming regarding our music opportunities for the 5th grade students. Programs are offered based on student interest and demand. **No physical exam is required to participate in the extracurricular or activity programs.** A signed parent permission slip is required.



- **LOCKERS**

A HALLWAY locker and lock will be assigned to each student on the **first day of school**.

Each student is responsible for the cleanliness and care of the interior and exterior of his/her locker.

**The security of the locker is the responsibility of each student.** Do not allow other students to use your locker. **Lost or damaged locks can be replaced for \$5.00.**

**GYM LOCKERS**-Students are **REQUIRED** to provide a lock for use during gym class. The lock needs to be removed at the end of the PE class period. Students are advised that they should not bring valuable items

into the gym area. The school will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items. Lockers belong to the school and will be checked periodically to ensure the safety and well being of all our students at Poquessing.

- **NURSE INFORMATION**- Please send documentation of your child's immunizations to the nurse. **All students in all grades are required to have two measles vaccines.** See the nurse's web link on our Poquessing site for updated information throughout the year.

The School Health Law requires medical examinations for all children in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and dental examinations for all children in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. It is recommended that these examinations be done by your family physician and dentist. Please see the Nurse's webpage on Poquessing's website for the appropriate forms for these examinations. The completed forms should be in the Nurse's office by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**We are a PEANUT FREE SCHOOL.** Several students in our school have a severe allergy to ingestion, smell, and touch of peanuts. These are the guidelines that we use in order to have a safe environment for all students with food allergies. Peanut free signs are posted outside the main office, the cafeteria, and many classrooms. Please only send peanut free snacks for special activities. If a student wants a peanut butter sandwich for lunch, it must be tightly wrapped and placed in a lunch bag.

- **One-Way traffic pattern** – Parents/guardians dropping students off are asked to enter the main driveway on Heights Lane and proceed left around the building for drop-off at the gym door then continue out Poquessing Way exit. To help insure the safety of students and drivers, **one-way patterns are in effect at all times. Parents/guardians dropping off and picking up students during bus transport times cannot use the main bus port.**
- MORNING DROP OFF: Rear entrance near the gym for morning drop-off. **Doors will open at 7:25 a.m.** We ask that you pull close to the curb to avoid blocking the drive. Please **DO NOT DROP OFF AT THE FLAG POLE OR BUS CIRCLE.** During non-busing times (8:00 am – 2:30 pm), early dismissals and late drop offs may use front entrance/ circle.



- **\*\*\*NEW Afternoon Pick-up! Pick-up is now on the Ferderbar campus bus circle. Please form a car line.**

Please avoid the crowded area around Poquessing.

- **SPORTS** - Students interested in participating in a fall sports activity such as football, girls' field hockey or coed soccer must have a physical on file in the physical education office prior to tryouts. A PIAA physical card is signed by a doctor and parent in order to participate. **The form can be obtained on line (see our web site).** Students who participate in any athletic activity must be covered by school insurance or personal insurance in your family plan.
- **STUDENT AGENDA BOOK** Our PTO will provide an agenda book for every student! The agenda book is a **REQUIRED** tool to assist students in organizing and planning their learning time. **Students are expected to take this assignment book to every class. We strongly encourage students to bring the agenda book home each evening for parents to look over and respond as needed. The agenda book is a great communication tool for parents and teachers when used regularly. Student will record daily and homework assignments, tests, quizzes and projects.**

- **Student Drop off Times** – To ensure student safety and supervision, students are not permitted to enter the building before **7:25 a.m.** unless they are involved in a scheduled co-curricular program. Between 7:30 and 7:50 a.m., the cafeteria and will be open for students to enjoy a nutritious breakfast and the gymnasium will be open for warm-up activities. At 7:50 a.m. daily, students are permitted to enter the classroom/locker areas. *In the event of a two-hour delay the times above would reflect a two-hour change.*
- **STUDENT HANDBOOK** On the website at <http://www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us/pms/site/default.asp>
- **STUDENT INSURANCE** - **Neshaminy School District does not carry insurance for students.** Student accident insurance will be available for purchase and we strongly recommend you consider one of the school coverage plans. School insurance plan information will be given to your child on the first day of school.
- **TRANSPORTATION** Students should be at the bus stop *ten minutes before* the scheduled time. Students who walk to school should plan to arrive at school by 7:45 and be in 1<sup>st</sup> Period at 7:55 a.m. each day. The after school bus runs will be at 4:15 and 5:15 p.m. for students participating in supervised afternoon activities.

**To stay informed throughout the year please check the following information sites:**

**Parentlink:**

The District utilizes an automated phone calling system, under the new name of Parentlink, in the event of an emergency you will be notified via this phone system as well as email. The system is also used to notify you of important calendar events. Please stay tuned for more features throughout the school year.

**NESHAMINY APP**

Please download visit the district webpage for instruction to download the NESHAMINY APP and get all of the POQUESSING NEWS!

[www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us](http://www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us)

**Neshaminy School Districts official web site.** School calendar, school closings, board reports, general information, addresses phone numbers, alumni information, lunch menus, “PAM” and press releases.

[www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us/pms](http://www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us/pms)

**Poquessing Middle Schools web site.** There are many team web sites linked for more detailed information such as daily homework, trips and yearly highlights. Home and School, Music Boosters, nurse and guidance have additional links that are continually updated to help keep you informed.

**Cable channels**

If you have cable, your provider will have “The Neshaminy Channel”. It provides additional information as well as airing special events throughout the District.

**Radio stations**

Radio is the official source for notifying all students and parents that schools are closed. **Our school code is 752**

<b>WBCB</b>	<b>1490 AM</b>	<b>Levittown</b>
<b>KYW</b>	<b>1060 AM</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b>