

WHAT'S NEW WITH SCHOOL?

As the new school year gets set to begin for students on Monday, August 24th, both parents and students need to be made aware of important information regarding school rules, athletic rules, and staying healthy.

All students receive a copy of the Student Handbook the first day of school. The handbook should be reviewed by parents and students together so that everyone is aware of behavioral expectations. As is always the case, there will be a one-page form that needs to be signed by the student and the parent(s) and returned to the school. This form simply states that the student and the parent(s) have read and understand the contents of the handbook. I want to call special attention to new language in this year's handbook regarding cell phones and electronic devices in school. These devices are becoming more and more of a problem in the schools. Beginning with this school year, violation of the guidelines on cell phones and electronic devices will be very clear cut and progressively punitive.

As students return to school, athletic activities begin to get into full swing. As a matter of fact, cheerleaders, volleyball, cross country, soccer, and basketball athletes have long been underway with camps, practices, and so forth. Student athletes and their parents should be informed as to the district's Athletic Code of Conduct. Much like the Student Handbook, there is a page in the Athletic Code of Conduct that requires both the student and parent(s) to sign and return to the coach of the child's sport(s). Therefore, ignorance of the rules and expectations that are detailed in both the Student Handbook and the Athletic Code of Conduct is simply not an excuse. Yet, there seems to be the eternal question/excuse of not being aware of the rules and expectations. Remember, your signature page on file in the school office for both of these documents is all the indication for the school that both the student and his/her parent(s) have read and understand the

rules and expectations. Regarding extracurricular activities/athletics, there is no requirement by the Ohio Department of Education or the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District that a student participate in any of these activities in order to earn a high school diploma.

Finally, I want to devote a little more ink space to the subject of H1N1 (swine flu). As I mentioned in my last article, our schools will be working closely with the Adams County Health Department throughout the school year. Together we will be monitoring every serious health-related situation. We will be educating (and, in some cases, re-educating) students on proper sneezing and coughing procedures to help reduce the spread of germs. We will focus on and emphasize frequent hand washing with anti-bacterial soap, as well as the use of hand sanitizer. Students must work with us to help keep themselves as healthy as possible. We ask parents to help us enforce these good health procedures at home, as well as at school. You will be receiving information from the health department on H1N1, and what you can do to help promote better health, as well as what we will be doing in the schools. This would also include information on obtaining the H1N1 vaccine for your child if you are interested.

SCHOOL MESSENGER UPDATE

The School Messenger emergency notification system is used extensively by your child's principal, as well as the Superintendent. This very important link between the school and you is of little or no value if the information that is provided to us for emergency contact notification is not completely up-to-date. If your land line or cell phone numbers have changed since the end of the last school year, please be sure to provide your latest phone information to your school. This is a very important thing for you to do so that you can continue to receive School Messenger calls whenever they are sent.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. My next article will focus on the 2009 Local Report Card. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent