

August, 2017

Dear Middle School Students and Parents/Guardians:

It's good to be writing to you today! The school year is coming up fast, and we are super excited to get it under way! The summer seems to go fast, and this year we packed a lot in here at SAMS. When I wasn't hiring new staff- more on that later- I did get a chance to have some fun with my family. My husband and I took the two kiddos, Luca age 8 and Gianna age 5, on a two-week road trip out west. Highlights included Buffalo, Wyoming (a really cool place!), the three 5Ks I got to run in WY, MT, and NE, and the time spent with my brother and his family in Beaver Creek, CO. Mostly, I can't believe I didn't strangle either of my children, but instead, I actually really enjoyed them and our adventure.

Before we left and after I got back, I worked with lots of different SAMS staff to get ready for the new year. We hired some new teammates, finalized schedules, and set out the vision for the 2017-2018 school year. We are committed more than ever to our vision to become a school committed to authentic learning in a caring environment. We will continue our work to become a racially-just school by deepening our understanding of the role race plays in all of our lives.

It's true, we have quite a few new staff on board at SAMS this year. We lost some really awesome people for some really great reasons, and some really great people have joined our family to help us continue the work we've started and become the school we aspire to be. Please welcome to our family:

- Lena Pivec- 6th grade Science
- TBD- 7th grade Language Arts
- Kristine Schwintek- 8th grade Earth Science
- Tom Rademacher- 8th grade Language Arts
- Taylor Wells- 7th/8th grade STEM/ETech
- Jon Gordon- Dean of Students
- Jennifer Gille- 6th grade Reading long-term sub (through November)
- Scott Bryant- 6th grade Social Studies long-term sub (through January)

As you can see, our summer has been productive, and this year it was busy! All good stuff.

6th grade families, get ready for Camp Huskie! It's is the half-day orientation when incoming 6th graders are given some time and space to explore their new school without the 7th and 8th graders around. It is being held Aug. 24 from 9-12. Traci Adams has sent out communication about this recently.

Our back-to-school celebration will be held Aug. 31 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Just like last year, students will still be able to find their lockers, meet their teachers and their classes, and they will also have a chance to celebrate the start of a new school year by getting dinner at a food truck, eating with family, friends, and teachers, learning about many community partnerships, and reconnecting with all things SAMS. It's going to be fun to see how much fun we can have at our Back-to-School night celebration!

We officially get under way on September 5, the Tuesday after Labor Day. See you then!

Thanks,
Renee Corneille (on behalf of the SAMS staff)
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