



James Simpson <simpsonj@penntrafford.org>

## Penn Middle Parent Email 9/14/20

1 message

PENN MIDDLE SCHOOL <email@blackboard.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:24 PM

Reply-To: email@blackboard.com

To: simpsonj@penntrafford.org



Parents and Guardians of Penn Middle School Students,

As of today, we have completed our tenth day of school. The 6th-graders have become more acclimated and are beyond "newbie" status. I have asked more than half of our 6th-graders during lunch, do you want to return to your elementary school? No one has accepted this invitation yet. So the middle school can't be all that bad, right?

I am also pleased with the 7th & 8th-graders, they have accepted their new roles as 2nd-year students and building leaders respectively.

Switching between Digital & Traditional Programs - If you are going to move your child from one program to the other please give us at least 24-hours notice. I ask parents and guardians that want to switch, to email me on that Thursday, then we will have the students start the new program on the following Monday.

Penn Middle Anti-Bullying Options - We have an anonymous bullying reporting system that can be accessed online. Please visit the [safe2say site](#) and encourage your children to report any bullying or dangerous acts they witness. We also have physical bully-boxes located on the 1st and 2nd floors by the elevators. Students can turn in paper reports, again anonymously, if they choose. Bullying is everyone's problem, please re-enforce with your son or daughter that they need to stand up for their fellow students when they witness bullying, but can do it anonymously.

PTSD Online Support Page - Please visit this page for help with online learning questions and concerns. This site is not just for parents of digital learners. All parents and guardians can learn more about the digital learning process by visiting this page. The pandemic has changed education for everyone, we might as well take and use the positives as much as we can.

### Student Drop-off and Pick-up Update

- Our new system for [parent drop-off/pick-up](#) is working well. Thank you parents for your patience as we worked out the "bugs". Also, when you speak to the staff outside, please thank them, they volunteered for this duty. Drop-off now begins at 7:40 am, we were doing 7:30, but now that the system is working well, we can open the doors at 7:40. Parents must not drop off students before this. It is fine to create a line of cars and wait until the doors open, but students **CANNOT** be left at the door unattended.
- For afternoon pick-up, while the weather is nice, the process is easy. All students wait outside in the grass field. When the rain, cold weather, and snow begins, we will need to implement a new process. I will be sending an email describing this process and the rearview mirror tags we are planning to use.

Find my iPhone - One suggestion for all parents, install the ["find my iphone"](#) or similar app on your child's phone. We get at least one lost phone per week. Having this app saves me a lot of time and potentially money for you.

Free Breakfast and Lunch for All Students - Breakfast and lunch will be **FREE** for all grades 6-8 students each school day until December 31st, 2020 OR until the state of Pennsylvania runs out of funding for the program. Please see the link for more information.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday Sept 16 - Student Council Officer Elections

Thursday Sept 17 - Student Council Fundraiser Kickoff (100% online this year)

Friday Sept 18 - No School for Students Act 80 Day - Digital Planning Day for Teachers

Friday Sept 25 - No School for Students Act 80 Day - Digital Planning Day for Teachers

Monday Sept 28 - Midpoint of 1st Quarter

Friday Oct 2 - No School for Students Act 80 Day - Digital Planning Day for Teachers

Thursday Oct 8 – Picture Day

Friday Oct 16 - No School for Students Act 80 Day - Digital Planning Day for Teachers

Friday Oct 23 - No School for Students Act 80 Day - Digital Planning Day for Teachers

Thursday Oct 29 – End of First Quarter

Thursday Nov 5 - Report Cards Posted to Parent-Portal

Wednesday Nov 11 - Veteran's Day - Out of respect for our Veterans students are asked to wear red, white, & blue.

Thank you for taking the time to review my informational email. Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Jim Simpson

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