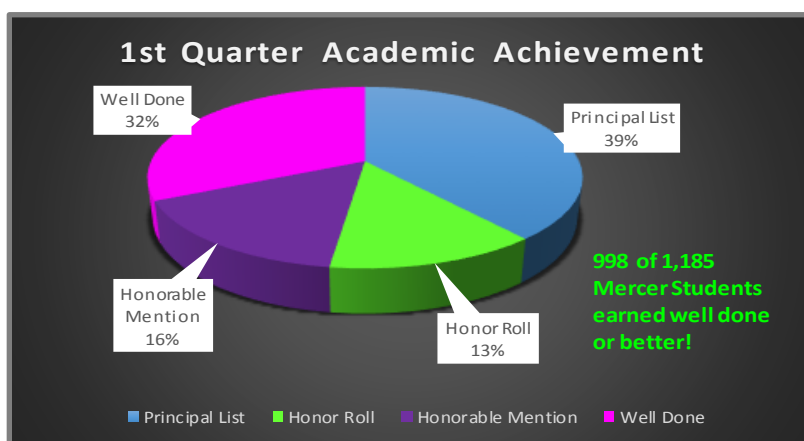


Asa Mercer International Middle School

Dear Mercer Families,

We hope you are doing well as we near the holiday season. We often refer to the A, B, C success indicators in school. Attendance, Behavior, and Coursework or grades are indicators we measure that often reflect the success of our students.

In November, we passed the 1st quarter of our school year. Almost all of our students were able to celebrate their hard work at our Fall ABC & Tardy Dance & Activity. I would like to take a moment to share with you the outstanding Coursework accomplishments of our students in the graph below. This graph reflects Grade Point Average (G.P.A.), and level of attainment for 1st quarter.



We are now in the 2nd quarter of the school year and beginning to prepare our students for our Semester I conferences, which will occur February 13-17. Please see page 4 of this newsletter about our upcoming conferences.

Congratulations to all of our students for their 1st quarter accomplishments!

Mr. Carter
Principal

cecarter@seattleschools.org

Contact Information

Main Office: (206) 252-8000

Ms. Hodges and
Ms. Nouch

Grade Level Administrators

6th: Ms. Encarnacion
7th: Ms. Simmons
8th: Ms. Gerlitz

Grade Level Counselors

6th: Mr. Malaki
7th: Ms. Chappelle
8th: Ms. Bradley

Attendance: (206) 252-8004

Ms. Kolner

Nurse: (206) 252-8007

Ms. Eckerdt

Registrar: (206) 252-8010

Ms. Holmes

Bilingual Office: (206) 252-8008

Mr. Adan – Somali
Mr. Andebrhan - Tigrinya
Ms. Almendarez- Spanish
Ms. Bunnell – Tagalog
Ms. Chung – Chinese
Ms. Deloya - Spanish
Mr. Siew– Chinese
Mr. Tran – Vietnamese

After School

Activities: (206) 252-8020

Damien Hicks

School Based

Health Center: (206) 762-2394

Sarah Bernhards

Independent Reading at Mercer

Mercer teachers are working hard to accomplish four main goals for Independent Reading which will result in our students becoming stronger readers!

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Students and teachers establish and strengthen the routines and procedures for 20-30 minutes of daily Independent Reading	Students and teachers know their approximate reading level and are matched to books they can read and enjoy.	Students and teachers meet regularly with their using the reading band tools to compliment strength, coach into skills, and set goals for growth.	Students and teachers keep records to track and monitor their progress

We Want to Partner with You to Support Your Child in Reading!

Reading Band Toolkit

- The Mercer Website contains a link to the Reading Band Toolkit that teachers and students are using in class. It includes the skills that students need to master at their current and future reading levels.
- Please print the toolkit and use it to ask your child questions, and check in with them about what they are working on and how they are improving as readers.
- You can find the Reading Band Toolkit at: <http://mercerms.seattleschools.org/>

What Families can do at home:

- ✓ **Know your child as a reader**
 - Their reading level and the skills they need to master at that level to move up
 - (You can find this information in your reading band toolkit)
- ✓ **Encourage your child to independently read at home**
 - 20-30 minutes everyday
 - Talk to them about what they are tracking and paying attention to in their book.
- ✓ **Support and monitor progress toward mastering the skills in their reading level bands**
 - Ask to see examples of the thinking and tracking they are doing in their books
 - Ask what they are improving on as a reader

PTSA Meeting, Wednesday, 12/14/16

We are very grateful to those who have signed up already. We are still looking for more members to join. We hope that we can get more families involved. We have PTSA meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month, unless posted otherwise. We are here to bettering our children's education and we can always use volunteers and help throughout the school year. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions and ideas, you can contact us at mercervptsa@outlook.com or visit the Mercer website: http://mercerms.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/PTSA.

Parents/Guardians we need your help and support!



Electronic/Cell Phone Expectations:

We understand how important it is to have access to your student. As parents and caring adults the safety of our children is of the utmost importance. However, middle school age students frequently struggle with the appropriate use of cell phones. At Mercer, we are experiencing increasing levels of struggle with students and their cell phones. This struggle leads to loss of instructional time. Frequent cell phone misbehaviors by students.

- Messaging and use of social media during instructional class time.
- Taking pictures during instructional time.
- Gaming during instructional time.
- Negative messaging that can be defined as bullying between students through social media.
- Students tardy to class because they stop to check out something social media related on their cell phones.

Mercer policy for electronics and cell phone use, see page 12 of student planners:

Electronic devices must be off and out of sight from the moment you walk onto campus until 3:15. This includes lunch time and passing periods, playground, etc. Out of sight means we should never see or hear phones, ear phones, cameras, music players, and video games.

Cell phones can be a useful tool in support of instruction. On these instances, teachers inform students ahead of time that cell phone use is OK. Beyond these instances we SHOULD NOT see cell phones out during school hours, 8:15-3:15. If students need to use a phone they are able to use the phone in the main office.

Please help us here at school by having a discussion with your student about your family expectations of cell phone use in alignment with what is expected here at Mercer.

Thank you for your support!

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Coming soon... Semester 1 Student Led Conferences, February 13-17

The purpose of student led conferences: (more information coming in January)

1. To provide an opportunity for students to share academic progress from Semester 1 with their families.
2. It's an opportunity for families to see and hear from their students about their student's progress.
3. It's opportunity for students and families to set a Semester 2 goal related to academic success.

Drop off and Pick up Reminders

We understand the challenges that exist when picking up and dropping off students to school. Our proximity to Columbian Way, and the small nature of our parking lot combined with the large number of students and families at Mercer make this a challenge. Nonetheless, it is really important to follow all laws and procedures when picking up and dropping off students at Mercer.



On our website is a [Traffic Map](#) that provides information and alternative locations to consider using, such as Jefferson Park or 14th Ave. There are safe walking trails and crosswalks students have access to and this may prevent the long wait you might be experiencing in our parking lot.

Thank you for your cooperation!

After School Activities, Session #1 Oct. 3 – Jan. 13

After School Activities or Out of School time (OST) has begun. It is not too late. Course forms are available on-line and at school. You can also register on-line or pick up registration information at school. Please visit our [website!](#)

After school activities offer a range of free programs that begin at 3:25pm and run through 4:45 pm Monday-Friday!

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

- 8:** Latino Culture Night (5:30-7:00 pm)
- 14:** PTSA Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 16:** 1 hr early dismissal
- 19-2:** Winter Break

January Dates:

- 3:** Back to school 2017
- 11:** PTSA Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 16:** Dr. King Holiday – No School
- 26:** Winter Concert
- 31:** End of 1st Semester
- Feb. 1:** Day between semesters – No School

