

Asa Mercer International Middle School

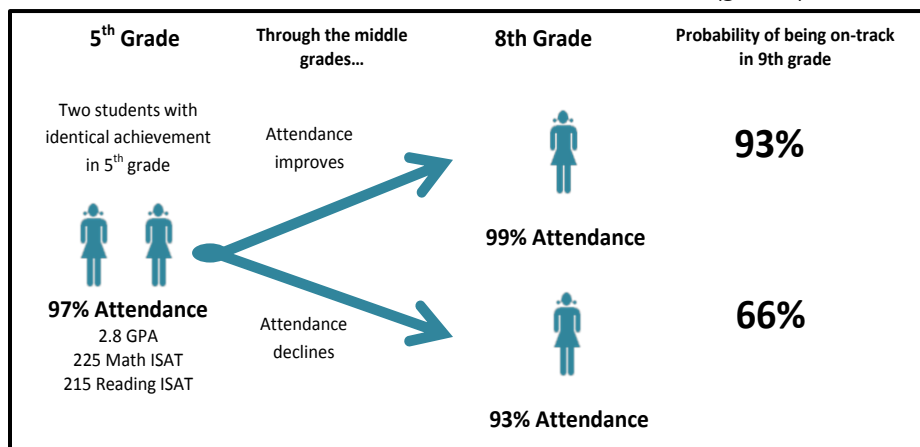
Dear Mercer Families,

Thank you for helping to make our start of the school year smooth. One important part of the development of children during the middle school years is building strong and productive academic habits. You can get an early jump start by developing and supporting routines that are predictable and habit forming. For example, at this point, our students are familiar with our routines like getting to class on-time, knowing our structures of learning and what to expect when class begins, and how to use their composition books and planners, etc.

At school we work hard to establish rituals and routines that lead to productive habits and behaviors. At home, it is also important to establish rituals and routines, particularly in these middle school years. A comparison to think about is driving across a bridge with no side rails. Most of us may not cross, but with guidance and assured sense of predictability we would usually not even think about whether or not to cross, we would just cross.

Predictable routines and procedures, similarly, create a safe way of doing things that lead to school success. Developing these habits during the middle school years is important toward long term success. Examples include, reading :30 minutes at minimum every day and completing their reading logs. Other examples include students preparing and organizing themselves for the next day before getting sleep, along with getting enough rest and arriving to school on-time. Developing predictable routines and patterns of behaviors are important strategies to establish in these middle school years. At Open House last month, I referenced the 3 most important indicators of success.

Attendance + **B**ehavior = **C**oursework (grades)



Go Mustangs!
Mr. Carter
Principal

cecarter@seattleschools.org

This graph shows the connection between attendance & its impact on grades and high school success. Learn more at attendanceworks.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

PTSA Meeting: October 12, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Participating in or joining Mercer's PTSA is a great way to get connected and get involved at Mercer. Please visit the [PTSA webpage](#) for more information.

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms, due by October 18

Families have until Tuesday, October 18 to get free or reduced lunch applications in. If you believe you might qualify please complete the application and return to our Mercer cafeteria nutritional staff. Applications are available, in multiple languages, in the link below:



[Seattle Schools Nutrition Services website](#)

2017-2018 Bell Time Survey

You may have heard and received a recent survey from Seattle Public Schools regarding a bell time change for next year. Coming in 2017-18 is an additional 20 minutes of instructional time and 1 hour per week late arrival or early dismissal.

This is the second year in a row for bell time changes. These changes affect families in different ways. The survey is an opportunity to provide your input. To learn more and to complete the survey, please visit:

[Seattle Public Schools Schedule Change website](#)

Bell Schedule.



NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from PTSA

Dear Mercer Families:

Welcome to the Mercer PTSA! We are very grateful to those who have signed up already. We are still looking for more members to join. We have a great year ahead! 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.

Please join us next week Wednesday, October 12 in the Mercer Library from 6:30-8pm.

Hope to see you there!

Creepy Clown Craze

As I am sure you have seen and read about the reports across the country and locally about clowns threatening the safety of our neighborhoods, schools, and children. Seattle Public Schools sent this link out earlier in the week to all families: [KIRO 7 Report](#)

We've received many reports from our students, particularly earlier this week, about web postings, snapchat, and other social media platforms that students are receiving about clowns and safety. Typically, what students have received have been forwarded to them by other students. Not direct messaging from clowns, but information that students have heard about it, etc. We take these reports seriously. We communicate these concerns to Seattle Police Department and School District Security and investigate accordingly.

On Tuesday of this week Mercer teachers spent a few minutes in class talking to students about this trend. Points we discussed with students included:

- Scary clowns have been a part of social media trend nationally with lots of "I've heard or I've seen" information.
- Because of the nature of social media information moves quickly and can get blown out of proportion. It has been reported that some students may have received pictures on their devices making the scary clowns seem even more real.
- Students can help by **NOT** perpetuating or sending on claims and information through rumor and gossip.
- We take safety seriously, if students see suspicious individuals while at school or walking to and from school please inform your parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, or other adults at school.
- We do investigate all claims and concerns.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Parking Lot and Traffic Challenge at Mercer

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.

1st Quarter Progress Reports, Thursday, October 13

We have moved the distribution of our mid quarter progress reports to next Thursday, October 13 rather than Friday, October 9. Students bring home progress reports several times throughout the year:

October 13, December 16, March 3, May 19

You can always check your student's progress using the [Source](#).

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!

Fall Sports

The fall sports season has begun! The fall sports season consists of Girls Soccer and Coed Ultimate Frisbee. Games are on Saturdays. Schedules for fall sports can be found [here](#).

IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES

- 3:** OST Begins
- 12:** PTSA Meeting
- 13:** Math Toolkit Training, (6:00 pm, library)
- 14:** No School – Teacher Professional Development Day
- 25:** Picture “retake” Day
- 27:** Family Bingo Night (5:30-7:00 pm)

November Dates:

- 9:** PTSA Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 10:** End of 1st Quarter
- 10:** ABC & Tardy Dance & Activity (1:30-3:15 pm)
- 10:** Literacy Toolkit Training (6:00 pm, library)
- 11:** No School – Veteran's Day

