

Hello Hale Families,

I hope the start of this school year has been a smooth one for you and your family. As we enter into our first full week of classes I wanted to provide you with some information about several important items. If you have any questions you can contact me directly. Have a great weekend.

Kyle Grady
Principal

Open House: The fall open house is scheduled for Wednesday September 12th from 6-8. We will start the evening in the auditorium where some general information will be shared with you. After gathering in the auditorium, you will be headed to your child's homeroom location to receive a copy of your open house schedule. At a minimum you should know your child's homeroom teacher and room number. We will have homeroom rosters posted outside of the main office and auditorium in case you forget. We will also be sending copies of the schedules home with students. The hope is that this eliminates any last minute scrambling for open house schedules.

6th Grade Update: Grade 6 students have synapses firing as they learn so many new procedures and schedules and make a lot of mistakes! Their brains are growing, just ask them all about it! In Math students have been working on various number activities. We are establishing and practicing classroom norms that students have developed in order to do our best work in small groups and with partners. Multiplication tricks are coming! In Plus class students have been discussing digital citizenship and what responsibilities they have as members of digital world. This will culminate in them receiving their chromebooks to use in school each day, although they will not be going home just yet. Up next, students will be exploring their learning styles! In ELA, we are exploring our first unit of short stories which begins with a study of characterization and analysis. Your children are 'analyzing' themselves and showing their teachers and peers who they are on the outside and on the inside. In Science, students are actively applying the Science and Engineering Practices during a challenge called Tubulus Tubuli. Groups are problem solving, analyzing their observations, creating hypotheses, and communicating their ideas to their peers. Come check out their models in the hallway during Open House! Maps, maps and more maps in Social Studies. Students are reviewing the cardinal directions and using latitude and longitude. Soon they will use this information to find Olduvai Gorge and other sites where Early Human fossils and artifacts have been found. Ask your student to explain latitude, longitude, and how to remember which is which.

7th Grade Update: In social studies, students are being introduced to some basic geography terms that they will hear throughout the year and mapping the town of Stow. In math, students are beginning work with Integers, broadening their repertoire of math skills to include a whole new side of the number line -- negative numbers! In Digital Literacy and Computer Science, Students have begun to use their Chromebooks, as well

as Google Chrome's features by adding extensions, searching the Web Store, customizing their task bars, organizing their Google Drives, navigating the platform and learning keyboard shortcuts. In Science, we are building our science skills with work on number sense and estimation, observation versus inferences, and supporting claims with evidence. In ELA, we are working on writing strong evidence-based paragraphs, and will begin a newscast unit next week.

8th Grade Update: The eighth grade curriculum has begun in earnest, and students are finding new challenges in each class. Social Studies finds students working on their first current events report, and they will be tested on their knowledge of civics before they delve into the study of government. In math, both classes will be diving into the language of algebra, using algebraic expressions and equations to model problems. Students will be building on the algebra skills learned in seventh grade to include a broader variety of equations, including those with variables on both sides of the equals sign. In English Language Arts, students are reviewing the elements of fiction, and applying them to short stories, including "The Lady, or the Tiger?" by Frank Stockton. As for Spanish, for many, this is the first time students are taking a Foreign Language class. To start the year, Senorita has introduced concepts such as greetings, responses, farewells, and courtesies. Using music and dance, students have also mastered the Spanish alphabet. After the students' first "prueba" (quiz) on Friday, they will jump right into days of the week, months of the year, and other pertinent vocabulary. In Science, students have just begun our Genetics unit in which they will be taking a close look at how traits are passed along from one generation to the next. We will examine Mendelian traits, and we will be participate in extracting DNA from a banana.

RAS Update: In Health classes the students began the school year discussing the importance of hygiene and making plans to improve their own daily regimen. In Tech Ed all safety procedures have been taught and students are preparing for their first lessons/projects. Physical Education students are completing the FitnessGram fitness tests. They are filling out a packet that allows them to self assess their fitness levels and learn how each components affects them physically to set goals for the Spring test. In general music, students are starting units on music notation, Pop Music History, and Broadway musicals. In band, they are working on musicianship, instrument and performance technique, and are working towards our Winter Concert.

Sixth Grade Outdoor Adventure Program: 6th grade parents, please read the letter below. This is the same information that I emailed to you last week.

[6th Grade Outdoor Adventure Program](#)

Cross Country Sign Up: Please read the letter below from Coach Langelo about CC sign ups. All students must have an up-to-date physical on file with our nursing staff in order to participate.

[CC Sign Up Information](#)

Late Bus: After lengthy consideration, I have decided to discontinue the late bus service at Hale. I reviewed the data with our bus company at the end of the last year and the evidence was pretty clear; most of the late buses did not have any occupants. Nearly 82% of the time the late buses were empty.

Purple Pinkie Day: Rotary International is working to eliminate polio, and we are down to three countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. World Polio Day is October 24th. The Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley is holding a Purple Pinkie Day fundraiser where families give \$1, the cost to inoculate a child in a developing country. Those children have their pinkies marked purple to show they have received the medicine. Bring a dollar to Hale Middle School on October 24, make a donation at lunch and Rotary volunteers will paint your pinkie purple. Best of all, your donations are matched 2 for 1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation so your money will go even farther. The families in the Nashoba School District have helped inoculate tens of thousands of children around the world.

Community News: Check out the Stow community news section of our website for events and programs in our town....Click [HERE](#)