

Mary Gage Peterson Elementary
College Graduates, Community Leaders, Cultural Ambassadors

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Dear Peterson Families,

Happy 2017!! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break.

As I am sure you saw in the Peterson Parent Periodical, starting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Peterson will begin Morning Max, or offering every student a breakfast as he or she enters the building. Morning Max is more commonly known as breakfast after the bell or breakfast in the classroom.

Students who do not eat at home are encouraged to take a breakfast, but students who eat at home do not have to take a breakfast. The move to Morning Max is a move directed by the State of IL and the Board of Education. As of January 1, 2016, Public Act 99-850 stated that school districts that have at least 70% of students classified as low income are required to implement a breakfast after the bell program.

I would like to share several important pieces of information about Morning Max at Peterson:

- Every morning, the breakfast and lunch team will assemble paper bags with hot and cold breakfasts. The breakfast and lunch team will bring the bags with the breakfasts to each entranceway at Peterson and will stay there to offer students a breakfast as they enter. Students who take a breakfast will then eat with their classmates in the classroom.
- Students will use the same entrances that they have used the entire year:
 - Door 1 on the Plaza: Grades 1 and 2
 - Door 3 on Kimball: PK and Kindergarten
 - Door 7 on Catalpa: Grades 3, 4, and 5
 - Door 10 on Christiana: Grades 6, 7, and 8
- Students will have the option to choose 1) a hot breakfast (white bag); 2) a cold breakfast (brown bag); 3) an additional fruit; and 4) a skim or a 1% milk. All menus can be found at: http://www.cps.edu/About_CPS/Departments/Pages/MealMenu.aspx.
- I encourage all parents to review the menu with their child and make a decision about whether a child will eat breakfast at home or at school. Additionally, if eating at school, children should decide, with their parents, if they will eat a hot or cold breakfast.
- Please tell your child that they while they are encouraged to eat a breakfast at school if they do not eat one at home, they may not bring outside food for breakfast. This is for the safety of all students at Peterson due to allergies.



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- Given that all breakfast and lunch team members and Peterson staff will now be stationed at entranceways, Peterson will no longer be able to provide breakfast in the cafeteria or early entry into the cafeteria.
- The AM session of afterHours will start at 7:45am for almost all programs. Students will then proceed to their entranceway after afterHours starts.
- All emotional and social programming, including Connections and Peer Mentoring, will continue. Morning Max will simply be integrated into these existing routines at Peterson.
- ***The cafeteria will no longer be open at 8:15am every morning because the breakfast and lunch team and Peterson staff will be at the entranceways. However, supervision will start at entranceways every morning at the same time it has always started in the cafeteria, and if there is poor weather then there will be indoor line-up.***
- Kindergarten students will be allowed into the building at 8:30am the first week to support students with this new routine.

Please contact the teacher of your child or Ms. Karém Gomez, Mr. Scott Topel, or me with any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation with and your support of Morning Max.

Respectfully,

Kate Kane, Principal, Peterson