

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Gra-Mar Middle Prep for the 2016-17 school year. We look forward to another exciting and productive school year. As in the past, our faculty & staff will continue to create a positive culture of learning where all students can experience academic, social & emotional success. We encourage all children to take **PRIDE** and embrace our commitment to being **P**repared, **R**eflective, **I**nnovative, **D**ata-driven, & **E**ngaged in ensuring their success. We value your input and look forward to a quality home-school collaborative relationship. Through our commitment to our students, we know and believe that this will be a special year of growth, development, and achievement for your child.

With the start of a new academic year, your child will set **SMART** Goals. I encourage you to take a moment to discuss these goals with your children because as we know positive goal setting is the first step towards long lasting achievement.

We welcome new staff members Cynthia Hicks (5<sup>th</sup> grade Math), Brandon Peters (5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies), Rachel Smith (7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA), Latonya Davenport (8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA), Harvey Tharpe (Exceptional Education), and Rebecca Hunter (8<sup>th</sup> grade Science). All are tremendous additions to the Gra-Mar family. At this time, recruiting a Spanish I (part-time), and 7<sup>th</sup> grade (Science) teachers. Our goal is to have the positions filled on or before August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Grade Level Student Orientations will be held on the following dates:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Time:</b>
Monday, July 25 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> graders	5:30-7:00 pm
Tuesday, July 26 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> graders	5:30-7:00 pm

During orientation, parents and students will be presented with important information about the daily policies, procedures, and routines at Gra-Mar Middle Prep. This will be a great opportunity for all students to become familiar with the school layout, their teachers, and their daily schedules that they will follow as they transition from class to class on a daily basis. Also, orientation should address any questions and provide some insight regarding the students' learning environment prior to the first day of classes so that the transition is smooth.

Prior to the opening of school, our **"Hot Diggity Dog"** Back to School Bash will be held on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m. The first official day of school for all students will be Wednesday, August 3, 2016, which is a half day (8:55-12:30).

At 8:40 a.m., the school doors open. Students will remain outside or on the school bus and will enter the building at 8:40 each day to attend breakfast or go directly to first block. Please understand that students should not be dropped off before the opening of school. In order to maximize on our instructional program, the first class begins at 8:55 a.m. All students must be in their first block class at this time. Dismissal will begin each day at the scheduled time of 3:55 p.m.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to make a special effort to join with our faculty & staff at school activities establishing strong foundations and to improve the channels of communication between Gra-Mar Middle and your home. Please make every opportunity to attend our Grade Level Student Orientations, and our School-wide Back to School Bash. This will be a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers, school counselor, community partners, and continue to build the vital home-school partnership/collaboration that drives student success. ***“When a community achieves, we all achieve!”***

Please call me at 615-262-6685 ext. 106 or email me at [sonya.brooks@mnps.org](mailto:sonya.brooks@mnps.org) if I can be of assistance as we begin the school year. Please email any suggestions and comments about what we are doing at Gra-Mar Middle Prep, as we are always striving for ways to be the best that we can be.

For the children,

*Sonya Brooks*

Mrs. Sonya Brooks, M. Ed  
Principal

***“Can’t Hide That Gladiator **PRIDE!**”***

