2017-18 Start of School Frequently Asked Questions

Want just quick facts? Check out our one-pager here.

Q: Is the construction work going to be finished before the first day of school?
A: Yes, the work will be in a sufficient state of completion for school to open, but it won’t be entirely finished. Over ¾ of our school and campus were renovated this summer so the project was very ambitious, but necessary. We still have a few more areas to renovate over the next full year.

Q: What should students expect when they return as a result of the renovation?
A: Students should expect that about 70% of the classrooms and teachers will be in new locations. Some rooms may not have completed finishes; for example, new window shades not up yet; some painting to be done; some new tile not yet in place; all restrooms usable and private but with temporary partitions. Workers will continue to finish the projects over the first two weeks of school.

Q: How will my Bobcat know how to navigate the new layout?
A: We will post a comprehensive map labeled by teacher name and room number before school starts. Most Academy teachers are grouped in the same area of the school, which will help. Students should download the map to their phone, if possible, but we will have paper copies and posters. A map of the new rooms for both upstairs and downstairs can be seen here. A list of teacher names and room numbers is here.

Q: What kind of schedule will students have on the first day, August 7th?
A: Students will start with a full day of school (7:05-2:05), seeing their four A Day classes. They will first need to report to a homeroom class to get a schedule. The map of homerooms is here and the last name list is here. We will post lists by student last name so they know where to go. We will print a copy of the student’s schedule (take a picture of this on phone!) that can be picked up in the
homeroom. The next day, August 8th, students will see all four of their B Day classes on a regular schedule. To best prepare to navigate the new layout, students should log on to Infinite Campus to see their complete schedule (available now!) and then annotate the campus map with each room number they will visit. A map of the new rooms for both upstairs and downstairs can be seen [here](#). A list of teacher names and room numbers is [here](#).

**Q: How will student drop off, parking, and buses be organized?**

**A:** The front parking lot has been reconfigured to add more spaces and to create a more organized flow of traffic. Instructions on how to enter/exit are [here](#). You can see the parking lot and bus lane map [here](#). Students are allowed to park only in the designated student lot. Judson Baptist Church, at their discretion, may allow overflow parking. You can see our parking policy [here](#). Sales will begin after school starts so students may park for free the first week. Premium parking (close to the building) is $20 (restrictions apply); general parking is $10.

**Q: How will breakfast and lunch be organized this year?**

**A:** Breakfast will be served in the new cafeteria from 6:45-7:00 each day, at no cost to any student. Lunch, also at no cost to any student, will be managed in two ways: 1. To start the year, and at other times as needed, we will run four, traditional 30-minute lunch periods during third block. There is a map and a schedule for that [here](#). 2. Once we are underway, we intend to implement a one-hour, whole school Flex Lunch schedule, which offers lunch + personalized learning from 10:00-11:00 each day. Flex Lunch is described [here](#).

**Q: Will my Bobcat be able to get a locker? A set of books for home?**

**A:** Brand new lockers will be available to students once they have been installed, which may take about two weeks after the start of school. Students will sign up through the I.T. Academy Office with Mr. Christos. Many teachers in high school utilize texts from a set of MNPS adopted books that stay in the room. It is not typical for students to bring home a book for each class. We are happy to work
with families on a take home text. Please email I.T. Academy Principal Jacob Vaughn for assistance.  Jacob.Vaughn@mnps.org

Q: How can I find out which teachers are in which academy and subject area?
A: You can see our organizational chart here.

Q: When is Open House?
A: We are working on a date that will, to the best we can manage, not conflict with Open House events at other Cluster schools. Stay tuned for an update. We will have a Freshman Orientation event on Wednesday, August 2nd from 6:00-7:00 p.m. A call out has already been sent for this. A reminder will come, too. Our school calendar will be updated and maintained here.

Q: Is there a parent organization? How can I be involved at school?
A: Yes, we have an active PTO. Contact Terri Watson for information at bennettsmom1@comcast.net. We welcome parents to participate on our Career Academy Advisory Boards or to go with students on experiential learning activities (aka field trips). Email Academy Coach Mary York for information at Mary.York@mnps.org. This year, we have a Family Engagement Specialist who will help us to meet our goal of ensuring that every family has at least one meaningful and positive connection to our school. You can reach out to Rebecca Farrow with your questions and interests. Rebecca.Farrow@mnps.org

Q: Where can I find all of the new documents and other updates?
A: They will be available on the school’s website under “Helpful Links” (http://schools.mnps.org/john-overton-high-school/) as well as posted on the Overton parent-run Facebook page. Those who sign up for the Parent-Link app (https://mnps.parentlink.net/) can also get documents and news that way.

Q: How can I keep up with school daily announcements and news?
A: We post our daily announcements on the PTO Facebook page. There is also a WJOHS student news YouTube Channel that we will launch later in August.