



August 7, 2017

Dear Families:

Welcome back from summer break! I am so excited about all of the great things we have planned for this school year! I hope you are following us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram (@AntiochMPBears), and have downloaded our free mobile app (**Antioch Middle Prep**), so that you can follow our progress! Here is a sneak peek of just a few of the *NEW* things we have in place for this school year:

- **Honors** English/Language Arts classes for 6th-8th grades
- School-wide **AVID** (Advancement via Individual Determination) College Prep system & AVID elective course for 6th & 7th grades
- School-wide **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) initiative and **STEM** elective course
- **Drama & Creative Writing** elective course
- Restorative Assistant to coach teachers and support students in **restorative discipline practices**, as alternatives to suspension and conflict
- **"PawMart"** - a PBIS-store where students can use their Bear Bucks to purchase goodies/incentives
- Afterschool **ACT prep** from In Full Motion, Inc.
- **Outdoor seating** for classroom use or student incentives
- School-wide **Reading Incentive** program
- **Digital parent newsletters** and announcements to conserve paper and provide language translations
- **Parent workshops**

As you know, our vision is to become the top choice for families in the Antioch community. We refer to this vision as "**Bears 2020**", because we expect to meet all milestones that we created in 2015, by the year 2020. Our dedicated teachers affirmed this at a Summer Institute, and shared how they will "Feed the Fire", our theme for this school year. We now need our students to commit to doing their very best each day, and for YOU to partner with us! That's right, we need you to help "**feed the fire!**" It takes a village to support our students and teachers. This year, we are asking every parent to have at least one meaningful connection with the school. There are several opportunities for you to be involved, for example:

- Attending:
 - Open House
 - Academic Nights (Literacy, STEAM, etc.)
- Fundraising:
 - Collecting Box Tops from your home, co-workers, church, friends, etc.
 - Linking Antioch to your family & friends Kroger Plus Card (#19557)
 - Participating in our Cookie Dough & Snack fundraisers

- Volunteering:
 - Chaperoning field trips
 - Serving as a reading pal to a student during class
 - Serving as a guest speaker for Career Day or College Week
 - Joining the **PTO**
 - Serving as a PTO officer. Nominations will be at our first meeting, August 24th at 5:30pm
 - Joining other men in **WATCH D.O.G.S.**, and helping with school events (i.e. parking lot, taking stats at a game, concessions, eating lunch with students, recess monitors, etc.)
- Donating:
 - Collecting prizes and supplies for our PawMart.
 - Donating new or gently used SSA
 - Donating gift certificates, school supplies, or food for teachers
 - Recruiting guest speakers
- Marketing:
 - Serve as a member of the MNPS Parent Advisory Council
 - Serve as a member of the MNPS EL Parent Ambassadors
 - Recruit businesses to donate or advertise on our mobile app
 - Post a **positive review** on www.greatschools.org or www.niche.com
 - “Like” our social media pages and share/retweet great news

We also need your help in encouraging your child to read daily, providing quiet homework time, and asking about their day. I look forward to meeting you at our **Open House on Tuesday, August 24th, at 6:00pm**. The PTO meeting precedes the Open House at 5:30pm. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at (615) 333-5642 extension 1910, or celia.conley@mnps.org. I look forward to partnering with you this school year!

With Bear Pride,



Celia Conley
Executive Principal