



Pleasant Lea Middle School
Lee's Summit R-7 School District
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Principal
Dr. Janette Miller
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Ms. Kimberly Hollins
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Dear PLMS Parents and Guardians,

July 2017

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year at Pleasant Lea Middle School! Our theme for the upcoming school year, "Create Your Story!" was created and selected by PLMS students through a vote of our student body. The middle school years provide a time when students can explore a wide range of experiences as they start to prepare for the focus of their future. Included in this packet is our PLMS Mission, Vision and Commitment Statements which reflect our commitment to partnering with you and your child on this journey of working together as a team with one common goal: a successful future for each student at PLMS.

The Lee's Summit R-7 School District is in its second year of an on-line registration system that families will use for returning students. The system can be easily accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week **beginning July 6, 2017**. All families have the ability to review and update information, confidentially upload necessary residency documentation, and make payment for required and optional school items. The on-line system reduces the amount of time families spend at school completing this process. **This correspondence includes the following very important information to assist you in preparing your student(s) for the 2017-18 school year:**

- 1) **PowerSchool Parent Portal Directions** are included. Your PowerSchool parent log-on is necessary in order to complete the registration process. Please note that the Access ID and Password information is confidential and specific to your child.
- 2) **Online Student InfoSnap Registration Directions** are provided to assist you in following all the required steps to completing the on-line registration process.
- 3) **Making Payment Directions** are provided to assist you in following the required steps to complete payment processing. Payment processing includes Chromebook Insurance, unresolved lunch charges from the previous school year, as well as other items related to your child/individual school.

It is important to note that although you will now register electronically, parents and students will still need to come to PLMS to pick up your actual schedule in August (see packet for dates/more information).

Please also remember that Pleasant Lea Middle School's daily start and end time is changing from 7:50 a.m.-2:45 p.m. to **7:30 a.m.-2:25 p.m. for 2017-18**. More information from the district regarding this change is included in this packet.

As middle level educators, we truly believe that the school and family must work closely together to ensure your student's success. I hope you will take the opportunity to be involved at PLMS by participating in meetings, conferences, activities and events. I also encourage you to join our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). PTA representatives will be present during schedule pick-up in August to take memberships, answer questions, and sign up volunteers for activities and events. We realize you have very active schedules, but please look for ways in which you can become involved in your school!

Please know that my door is always open, and you are always welcome at PLMS. Remember, Pleasant Lea Middle School is *your* school! Let's work together to ensure that our students have a successful 2017-18 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janette Miller

Principal, Pleasant Lea Middle School

Our PLMS Mission Statement:

We equip PLMS students with the tools to be successful.

Our PLMS Vision Statement:

PLMS will create an environment where each student can learn and experience success.

Our PLMS Commitment Statement:

Utilizing our strengths to engage and develop the intellectual, physical, emotional and social needs of our students, WE commit to:

- partnering with students, parents and community to develop positive relationships.
- supporting each student's unique and changing needs.
- fostering high expectations while empowering learning and responsibility.
- providing a safe learning environment.
- building positive character.
- providing a variety of curricular and co-curricular opportunities.

CLASS SCHEDULE PICK-UP

August 2 **7th & 8th Grade Schedule Pick-Up** **1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
August 3 **7th & 8th Grade Schedule Pick-Up** **1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Parents should accompany their student to pick up the 2017-2018 class schedule. You and your student should allow time to tour the building and familiarize yourselves with the surroundings. It is very important that you attend on August 2 or 3 as these are the days we have additional staff on site with a specific set-up to assist in this process. *(NOTE: High traffic times tend to run between 1:00-2:00 p.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m. each day; expect delays if you arrive during these timeframes. We anticipate August 2 will be the busiest of the two days overall.)*

Waiting to complete the schedule pick-up process at a later date is *highly discouraged* as we do not have the same staffing and set-up available to accommodate the process, and you would likely experience delays.

At the time of online enrollment for both 7th and 8th graders, you will pay the \$25 Chrome Book Insurance Fee. PE clothes can be purchased for \$15 (\$10 for shorts and \$5 for shirt). Yearbooks may be purchased for \$25. All fines must be paid prior to August 1 to be eligible for a FastPass at Schedule Pick-Up.

PLMS will also be open Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Aug. 7-15 (*except August 14 for 7th Grade Transition Day*) for time to continue familiarizing yourself with your locker and your school (students must be accompanied by a parent or supervising adult).

PLMS 7th Grade Transition Day

Monday, August 14, 2017

Welcome to Pleasant Lea Middle School and the 2017-18 school year! The PLMS staff is eagerly anticipating the opportunity to begin working with your student. I would like to remind you of our 7th Grade Transition Day, an exciting opportunity for our in-coming 7th graders.

This is a reminder that we will be conducting our eleventh annual **7th Grade Transition Day on Monday, August 14th from 7:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** Just as during the school year, car riders may arrive at school beginning at 7:15 a.m., and buses will unload at school beginning at 7:15 a.m. For the past ten years, this event for students was a huge success, and both students and parents were extremely pleased with the numerous benefits for students in easing this transitional period. The change from 6th to 7th grade is perhaps the greatest leap a student will take in his or her educational career. Our intention is to relieve stress and anxiety for both parents and students and instill confidence regarding coming to middle school. The ultimate purpose of 7th Grade Transition Day is to increase each student's comfort level about coming to a large middle school and to set the foundation for a successful middle school experience. Our entire staff is committed to this goal and its significance for our students.

On this day, students will have the opportunity to meet all of their teachers before the first day of school. Among other activities, students will learn how to read and follow their schedule as well as how to maneuver a locker combination. **(NOTE: Please do NOT bring any materials with you including backpacks, paper, pens/pencils, music instruments or any school supplies as this is not a focus for the day.)** In addition, students will walk through their daily schedule and attend every class in shortened fashion, as well as experience middle school lunch.

We are also excited about our WEB CARES program which students will experience on 7th Grade Transition Day. WEB CARES begins a year-long mentoring program for your 7th grader by connecting students with a successful 8th grade mentor. On transition day, your student will get to meet his/her WEB CARES mentor and participate in team-building activities that will ease this transition as well as build and strengthen your child's connection to middle school.

We are aiming this year for 100% student attendance at this event. **To assist parents with transportation that day, school buses will run their normal routes at the regular pick-up and drop-off locations. The morning pick-up time will be the same as during the regular school year. Since 7th Grade Transition Day is shorter than a regular school day, the afternoon drop-off time will be adjusted as students will leave school at 12:15 p.m.** This event is specifically designed for PLMS 7th grade students, so please note that parents and siblings do not accompany 7th graders that day.

I want to thank you for your support of your student and our school. PLMS is such a wonderful place because our entire school community is dedicated to always doing what is best for our kids. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance. We look forward to working with you and your student!

Sincerely,

Dr. Janette Miller

Principal, Pleasant Lea Middle School

PLMS School Supply List

3-Ring Binder	Colored Pencils- Box of 24	Ear Buds or Headphones	Gym Uniform (purchased at schedule pick-up)
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper	2-Blue or Black Ink Pens	Ruler	2-Boxes of Kleenex
4-Single Subject Spiral Notebooks	Red Grading Pen	Protractor	Highlighter
2-Packets of Notebook Dividers	#2 Pencils (#2 mechanical is acceptable)	Hand Held Pencil Sharpener	
4-Folders	2-Dry Erase Markers (dark colors)	Glue Stick	Athletic Supporter (boys)
2-Stretch Book Covers	Black Sharpie	Pink Eraser	

AUGUST 14 **BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT**

Back-To-School Night will be held this year on Monday, August 14th from 6:30-8:00 p.m., the evening of our 7th grade Transition Day. PLMS Back-To-School Night is an "Open House" style, similar to a "meet your teacher" format. Students and their families are invited to attend! All PLMS teachers will be in their classrooms for you to meet them as you tour the building that evening. There will be no formal schedule for classes, so feel free to come at your leisure between 6:30-8:00 p.m. You will need to bring with you your child's schedule that you receive at schedule pick-up in August.

PLEASE NOTE: *We will NOT conduct any registration processes during Back-To-School Night for anyone who has not completed this process or has not already picked up a schedule. If you are not registered at that time, you will need to call our guidance office at 816-986-1178 and complete the process Monday-Thursday during business hours (8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.).*

Fall Sports Information:

Any student wishing to participate in Fall Sports at PLMS must have a completed physical with proof of insurance dated February 1, 2017 or later. The physical form is available to print from our PLMS school website. In addition, all students must pay a \$25 district athletics/activities participation fee. You will be able to pay this fee during the online registration process. Please bring the completed/signed paper copy of the physical form with you to schedule pick-up in August (this form cannot be uploaded via the new online registration process). Fall Sports begin on the following dates: Football--August 14, Volleyball--August 15, and Cross Country--August 16. All physicals must be turned in by Monday, August 7 to the PLMS Student Administration Office. **GO TIGERS!!**

Several LS R-7 schools to change start/end times for 2017-18 to increase efficiency and save money

-Pleasant Lea Middle School's start/end time changes in 2017-18 from 7:50 a.m./2:45 p.m. to 7:30 a.m./2:25 p.m.

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, several Lee's Summit R-7 schools will change their start/end times in order to increase bus routing efficiency while saving significant dollars for our schools.

Pleasant Lea Middle School's start/end time is changing from 7:50 a.m./2:45 p.m. to 7:30 a.m./2:25 p.m. for 2017-18. For our school, this will mean that the earliest time students may be dropped off in the morning is 7:15 a.m.

The changes are designed to allow our Transportation Department to continue to offer a high level of service to families while reducing the number of school bus routes required to transport students to and from school. The Lee's Summit R-7 School District will save approximately \$120,000 in anticipated additional transportation staffing in 2017-18 while avoiding the purchase of several new school buses, estimated at \$520,000.

These transportation savings are especially important since the state continues to reduce funding for public school transportation. State reimbursement for public school transportation continues to be significantly underfunded with Lee's Summit R-7 funding 71 cents of every dollar spent on student transportation while the state contributes 29 cents toward every dollar spent. Full state transportation reimbursement would result in state funding of 75 cents of every dollar spent with Lee's Summit R-7 responsible for 25 cents of each transportation dollar. For the R-7 School District, the state underfunding of transportation results in a loss of \$3 million this school year.

The changes also provide for a more consistent schedule among schools. Instead of three start/end times for elementary schools, there will be two next year. The three middle schools will start/end within 10 minutes of one another next year instead of the 20-minute span in start/end times this year. For the three high schools, the change will result in all three schools starting and ending at the same time.

