



# FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

September 8, 2017

## **JTF Message from Alexa Quinn**

Dear Middle School Families,

To paraphrase one of my favorite musicals/movies, the halls are alive with the sound of Middle School students! Our focus this week was to orient students, help them connect and reconnect to both teachers and students, and to lay the foundations for our learning community -- both in individual classrooms and for the Middle School as a whole. We are excited to end the week with an all-Middle School maker activity this afternoon. Stay tuned for pictures!

As we get everything up and running, I have a fair amount of information to share with you this week. Please read the following and let me know if you have any questions!

### **Curriculum Night:**

Middle School Curriculum Night is this coming Thursday, September 14 at 7 pm. Please join us to meet your child's teachers and to learn more about the curriculum for this year. The format for the evening has changed slightly from previous years. We will gather in the Meeting Room of Shallcross Hall, and I will begin at 7 pm by sharing some remarks. Parents/guardians will then travel to their child's advisor's room; we will direct you to the right room, but it would be helpful if you know your child's advisor's name! Once in the advisor's room, you can pick up your schedule for the evening and fill out a name tag. There will be light refreshments offered in the Middle School building.

- For Grade 7 Parents: We will have an Echo Hill information session right before Curriculum Night to answer your questions about the Echo Hill trip. Please join us at 6 pm in Room 10. This session will end promptly at 6:45 pm -- in time for the beginning of Curriculum Night.
- For Grade 8 Parents: We will have an information session about our trip to Washington, DC, at 6 pm in the FCC Lecture Hall. You will also be receiving a letter with more information in the next week. This session will end promptly at 6:45 pm -- in time for the beginning of Curriculum Night.

### **Campus Safety:**

On Monday, Middle School students are going to hear about two important components of staying safe here in Middle School. Tom McDaniel, our Director of Campus Safety and Security, will join me in Monday's assembly to talk about fire and lockdown drills. We will go over the procedures for each drill, the layers we have in place for emergencies (silent alarms, PA-system, etc.), and answer questions from students. This year, teachers will be using a special app called Ruvna that allows us to easily take attendance from our phones anywhere on or off campus (in case of a field trip) during an emergency, ensuring that we can account for all students accurately and quickly.

We will do our first fire and lockdown drills in the next two weeks, so this will allow us to make sure students understand the procedures that we have in place. We do all of this training and practice in

the event of emergency while hoping that those emergencies will never come. If you have any questions regarding these drills or our procedures, please contact Tom McDaniel at [tmcdaniel@friendscentral.org](mailto:tmcdaniel@friendscentral.org).

If you have visited the Middle School building this week, you may have noticed that our building is now equipped with a card access reader on each of the doors and an intercom on the front door. This is part of the ongoing process of making our campus as safe as possible. Starting on Tuesday, September 12, the Middle School building will be locked after homeroom. Those wishing to enter the building will have to ring the doorbell and be buzzed in by Marian Petrarca (or whoever is at the front desk). Because students will not have individual ID cards, the main door students use will be unlocked during recess, lunch, and at the very end of the day to allow students to freely flow in and out of the building as they always have. This is new system for us, and we look forward to seeing how it works with our teachers and students, recognizing that we may have to make small adjustments along the way. Of course, this also means that family members coming to campus will have to be buzzed in, but I hope you will view this as a welcome addition to keeping Middle School students safe, as opposed to an inconvenience or barrier to visiting us.

### **Sign-ups for Clubs & Affinity Groups:**

Next week, students will sign up for their first semester clubs. These clubs take place on Fridays from 9:50-10:25 am. For a list of this semester's club offerings, please visit [this page](#) of the Friends' Central website starting on Monday, which is when the options will be updated. If your child has an idea for a second semester club, please encourage your child to approach me or a teacher.

Students will also sign up for affinity groups, which begin in a few weeks. Students choose a particular part of their identity that they would like to explore with fellow students who share that identity. The groups are led by trained student and faculty facilitators to discuss issues having a direct impact on their experience in the school community and the world, such as their race, gender, religion, or family situation. In addition, they can discuss any personal issues that may relate to their group. We plan to offer the following groups this year, though the sign-ups can sometimes reshape or add to the groups: Asian, African American, Multiracial, Hispanic/Latino, White Advocates for Racial Equality (WAFRE), Boys, Girls, Christian, Jewish, Quaker, Muslim, Multi-religious, Agnostic/Atheist, Adopted, LGBTQ+Allies, Physical Differences, Learning Differences, Family Dynamics. If you have questions, please contact [Lauren Davis](#) or [Keino Terrell](#).

Some additional reminders and information:

- If you plan to pick up your child via car, please wait until after 3:20 pm to arrive. The parking lot is crowded with buses until 3:20 pm, and we have had extensive lines of cars that have caused back-ups onto City Avenue.
- The library is open after school on Monday through Thursday until 5:30 pm and until 4 pm on Fridays.