

September 10, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to 7th grade and offer some suggestions for a successful start to the new school year. My name is Ms. Lawrenz and I will be your child's 7th grade Language and Literature teacher. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Megan Tolpa and Mr. Patrick Meallet to the 7th Grade team. Ms. Tolpa will teach Science, Mr. Meallet will teach Individuals and Societies/Writing and Mr. Rossiter returns as the 7th grade Math teacher. Our goal is to provide a challenging curriculum and rewarding experiences for your child this school year.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with each of you periodically to discuss your child's progress. Working together we can achieve our mutual goals of ensuring that your child successfully completes middle school and is well prepared for high school. Seventh grade test scores, IB Grades and CPS grades, along with other factors, will determine acceptance and placement for high school. The Peirce IB Middle Years Programme works in partnership with Senn High School.

At the beginning of a new school year it is appropriate to review with your child the need for proper rest, good nutrition and hygiene. Attendance, punctuality, study habits, and preparedness are vital for success in 7th grade. Support and encourage your child to be on time and ready to do his/her best. Successfully building the analytical and critical reading skills required for achievement in high school and beyond will require students to read independently. Such study habits may require up to ninety minutes (including independent reading and projects) of the student's after school day, Monday through Friday. If you notice that your child is struggling, please contact me for suggestions.

An important tool for communication between teacher and parent is the student agenda. Each seventh grade student has been issued an agenda. Students should include in their agendas: study assignments, long and short term projects, educational online websites, user names and passwords, Google classroom codes, and all communication tools to contact educators. One way in which you can support your child's success is to review the agenda each evening while discussing the day's activities and future ideas. Your child will be receiving copies of class requirements, discipline policies, and grading procedures for each of his/her classes. Please review this information with your child periodically.

I am happy to meet with you regarding your child's progress and am available for conferences by appointment. Please call (773) 534-2440 or email me for appointments. I am enthusiastic about working with your child and believe that this will be a successful and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

Donna Lawrenz
Language and Literature MYP Year 2, 7th Grade
Email: dburchettlawren@cps.edu