Welcome back! Let’s make it a great year! 😊

Another school year is upon us! As with any new year, many changes infiltrate our routines, and this year is no different. To help ensure your child finds success this year, here are some tips and information to consider:

Communicate with your child’s teacher(s)—ask questions, clarify the homework, attend the parent-teacher conferences, and inform teachers of changes at home that might impact your child’s day. Teachers are better able to meet your child’s needs when the lines of communication are kept open. Middle school is also the time to coach your student on taking the initiative with this communication. Practice at home and encourage your student to speak with his/her teacher. Communicating with others is a life skill and it is never too early to learn!

Communicate with your child—remember to include your child in conversations about his/her school day, his/her homework, or his/her friendships. He/she may have important insight to share with you! Let his/her voice be heard.

Utilize the student agenda—every student has been given an agenda book that includes weekly monthly and yearly calendars where they can write assignments, quiz & test dates, as well as details for upcoming projects. The agenda also houses important information pertinent to Lange Middle School. On page 2 is the yearly CPS calendar which is especially useful in pointing out A and B days. The Leopard Code (Lange Expectations) is found on page 8. Pages 9-14 offer note-taking help and pages 15 and 16 are the pages where teachers document weekly grades. Every Thursday teachers write grades in student agendas to make students and families aware of progress or need for extra support. These are just a few of the important pages within the student agenda.

How can your School Counselors help?

We help meet the needs of students by proactively teaching safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors in classrooms, small groups, and individually. We strive for a comprehensive school counseling program, which means that ALL students have access to their School Counselor throughout the year.

“I can accept failure. Everybody fails at something. But I can’t accept not trying. Fear is an illusion.” — Michael Jordan
**Respect the school’s decisions about protocols**—as unnecessary as some rules may seem, it is important to understand they exist for a reason. If you aren’t sure why we do something a certain way, ask! All protocols are a work in progress to meet the safety needs of you, your child, and all school staff. Safety first!

**Learn about the school routines**—there are some routines specific to Lange Middle School that can help you prepare your student(s) for success. **EVERY MONDAY** your student should come to Advisory ready to read. Mondays are SSR days. PBIS Lessons are taught **EVERY TUESDAY** during Advisory. **EVERY WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SOMETIMES FRIDAY** Advisory lessons are taught first period. These lessons cover social/emotional, academic, and career development. While there are no grades given in Advisory class, those 18 minutes every morning are jam-packed with important information and skills!

**Attendance Matters**—Every day is important! There is no substitute for the learning that takes place in class. Please remember this when scheduling doctor, dentist, orthodontist, and therapy appointments. With a dismissal time of 2:35 p.m. many of these appointments can be scheduled after school.

**Keep an open mind to new ways of teaching or handling behaviors**—education is not static, it is ever-changing. Thus, your child’s teacher or support staff may be trying a new technique to help students succeed. Please don’t speak unkindly of any adults or students at school with or in front of your child. If you don’t respect school or the people there, your child won’t either.

**Let your child fail**—children need to experience failure in order to succeed. Letting children feel sad, frustrated, or nervous is so important; they will learn that they can overcome such feelings and that they can trust themselves. Protecting children too much can lead to helplessness and powerlessness, leaving our children lacking the emotional resources needed to cope with inevitable setback and failure. **Childhood is the prime time for mistakes**; let it happen and support your child along the way. *(Lahey, J., Jan, 2013; TheAtlantic.com)*

*********************************************************************************************************

**New face**—Our registrar from last year Ms.Carlie Johnson has moved to the 6th grade classroom, teaching Science for team 6A. The new friendly face you may have seen in the counseling office is our new registrar Ms. Tranikia Thompson. She has been busy meeting new families and enrolling students. Please join us in welcoming her to the Lange family! 😊

“**I can accept failure. Everybody fails at something. But I can’t accept not trying. Fear is an illusion.**” — *Michael Jordan*