



Metropolitan School District
Superior Schools in a Supportive Community
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Nikki C. Woodson, Ph.D., *Superintendent*

Important Information Regarding New Drop Off and Pick Up Times
(Students must be dropped off after 9:00 a.m. next year.)

Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians:

Over the course of the 2016-17 school year, the number of students who are at school during unsupervised times has increased significantly. Unsupervised times include hours when school is not in session as well as situations when a student is not involved in a regularly scheduled extracurricular activity. There are times when the entries to our schools may have more than a hundred students packed into a very concentrated area making it nearly impossible for adult visitors to the school to walk into the building. In addition, there are other times when the group gathers outside the main entry chasing each other around or throwing various objects around sometimes leading to unsuspecting students being hit or knocked down. Neither of these scenarios works well for middle school students.

Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to supervise students during these times. Staff members are frequently involved in meetings during this time or are involved in supervising extracurricular activities. Thus, if a student were accidentally or intentionally hurt or injured, there is no one available to assist. In addition, we have had parents and community patrons express their inability to easily gain access to the school because the students are so tightly wedged into the vestibules that no one can pass through even though they have politely asked to pass through.

As a result of these concerns, we are implementing a very rigid drop off time and pick up time for the 2017-18 school year. With the student school day beginning at 9:20 a.m. this fall, students will not be able to be dropped off prior to 9:00 a.m. unless your child has made arrangements with a teacher to come into his/her classroom earlier for academic support if the teacher is available. In terms of pick up, unless a student is participating in or viewing an extracurricular activity, he/she needs to be picked up by 4:45 p.m. each day. In other words, students should not be present on the school campus before 9:00 a.m. or after 4:45 p.m. unless they are taking part in an extracurricular activity or receiving support from a teacher. Early next year, each school will share procedures regarding their process for when a student is permitted to arrive early to school for academic support. In addition, on Wednesdays when students can arrive prior to 9:00 a.m. in for regularly scheduled academic support, they will be permitted to arrive early as long as they arrive at the time established by the school.

Our goal in sharing this now was to provide you with adequate time to make alternative plans for the fall. We thank you in advance for supporting this change and have a wonderful summer break.

Sincerely,

Richard Doss
Director of Secondary Education

