

July 2021

Greetings Azalea Middle Families!

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I am excited to have you with us! As we embark on the new school year, I am certain that amazing learning experiences and many memorable moments await, and I look forward to sharing them with you.

I am pleased to share a number of enhancements in place for the 2021-2022 school year. This summer, staff once again engaged in curriculum revisions and professional development helping to ensure that we begin this school year ready to deliver the highest quality instruction and engage students in meaningful work. We are transitioning students to a higher level of rigor by blending traditional and advanced classes, so that all students reach their potential.

We are implementing two new initiatives to support the academic growth expected of our learners.

- 1) **Modified Dress Code:** Students are expected to adhere to the dress code enclosed in this packet . Students who do not comply, families will be contacted to bring a change of clothing that adheres to the dress code. For those families who wish to purchase school shirts, those items will be available, again, on the school's website a few weeks after August 11th.
- 2) **Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices Policy:** Items that must be kept out of sight, no sound or flashing lights: Ear buds, head phones, head sets, ear phones, cell phones, speakers, as well as any other outside/home electronic device Students will be required to surrender any electronic device that is seen, heard or flashing light to the student's administrator.
Parent Notice: Failure to surrender an item when requested may be considered an act of defiance. Please note that any/ all personal property will be returned to the parent/guardian only.

Another way that we are supporting the social emotional health of our students is with our schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. School-wide PBIS is a [multi-tiered framework](#) to make schools more effective places. It establishes a social culture and the behavior supports needed to improve social, emotional, behavioral, and academic outcomes for all students. PBIS is flexible enough support student, family, and community needs. We use BK Bucks to reward students who display positive behaviors. Students may use saved bucks to purchase items from the school store, specialty treats in the cafeteria or attend school sponsored events.

Azalea made great strides in implementing a school wide behavior program called Ready To Learn. Creating a safe and engaging class environment to support the highest level of rigor is of the utmost importance to the staff at Azalea Middle. We appreciate the support from our families when we are creating connections, so students understand the importance of being engaged in the curriculum while attending to the expectations set for by the teacher.

Our academic program also continues to grow this year, including the expansion of our AVID strategies. In addition to the curricular enhancements that were made this summer, I am pleased to share that we are expanding the use of school-wide binders that will be distributed the 1st day of school. Students will be supplied with a large binder, pencil holder with pencils and loose-leaf paper. Binders must be brought to school daily as they will be used in every class.

New Student Orientation- will occur on campus, in the cafeteria and on Zoom, August 4th at 2pm. The Zoom link is :

<https://zoom.us/j/99052064315?pwd=eVB4TU5RVHdWVTczZWtxYWgxSGdxdz09>

On the first day of school, August 11th, 6th grade students will report to the cafeteria to pick up their schedules. Our 6th grade teachers will meet students in the cafeteria and escort them to their 1st period class.

7th and 8th grade students will pick up their schedules on the west side, outside of the gym. Once the bell rings to allow students on campus, 7th and 8th graders will report to their 1st period.

***Parents may drop students off in the car circle. We do not allow parents to enter campus to escort their students to class.**

The First Day Student Packet will be distributed to students on the first day of school. There are three important forms in the packet that must be returned to the school: Student Clinic Card, K-12 Student Registration Form, **Student and Parent Wellness Responsibilities and Expectations 2020-21** and the Media Release Form. Families have the option to electronically complete PCS forms by visiting <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/33840>

We are committed to providing all students with exceptional learning experiences and look forward to strengthening the school-to-home partnership. If we can provide any assistance, please call us at 727-893-2606.

Thank you,

Susan Alvaro

Principal, Azalea Middle