



Orchard Middle School  
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Cari Mineard  
Principal

August 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

Summer vacation is quickly coming to an end and school is about to begin. We hope the summer was safe and enjoyable for everyone in your family. It is an exciting time at Orchard Middle School and we are anxiously awaiting the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year. Sixth Grade – a new year, a new beginning. How exciting is that! We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, fun, friends and growth. **The first day of the 2020 – 2021 school year is August 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Enclosed you will find your student's schedule. Just like in fifth grade, each team of students at Orchard will work with three different classroom teachers throughout the school day. Students will have one teacher for literacy, one teacher for math and one teacher for the content area. Instruction in the content area will alternate between science and social studies. Students will move between subjects based on their schedule. In addition, students will have the same special each day for approximately three-weeks. For example, they will have three weeks of music, three weeks of art and then three weeks of physical education. Enclosed is a calendar that will help you determine when your student will have music, art and physical education.

Because we know the importance of making connections and developing relationships in a virtual learning environment, we have adjusted the start to our Orchard school day. While we are fully remote, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin their school day at 9:15 a.m. with their homeroom teacher in a Homeroom Huddle. During this time, homerooms will engage in a variety of activities to help and support their social-emotional well-being and get to know their classmates.

Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>, all band and orchestra students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will start meeting with their music teachers for additional instruction prior to Homeroom Huddles. More information about band and orchestra will follow.

This placement is the result of much time and consideration regarding your child's learning needs, as well as creating a balance in the classrooms to provide the optimal learning environment for all students. Please understand that we will NOT honor requests for changes in classroom placement. *If you believe there is an error in your schedule, please email Mrs. Mineard directly.*

As we begin the school year, I want to review what a typical day will look like. Students will be required to log in and meet with their class during each rotation every day. Orchard students have three core classes, called rotations, each day for math, science/social studies and literacy (reading, writing, word study). Each rotation will be 75 minutes. Also, there will be independent reading time and teacher office hours during the school day. Additionally, students will have a 35-minute specials class every day. Students will have music, art or physical education on a three-week rotation. Enclosed are specific times for each team.

For daily instruction, teachers will use a combination of live streaming, group meets, individual work, whole class discussion and direct instruction. Please understand we have been working with our teachers and they have made adjustments to their typical pacing to accommodate these changes.

As you prepare for the start of school, please consider the following:

- Please review the schedule with your child and the enclosed suggestions to help with success.
- We will take attendance at Orchard during each rotation and during specials, just as we would if we were at school in person. Please call the attendance line at (440) 349-7252 when your student is ill or has an appointment and will not be able to log in to each class. Please send your doctor's note to our attendance secretary at [daxter@solonboe.org](mailto:daxter@solonboe.org).
- Each teacher will have office hours during the day. Teachers will communicate with students and families about their specific times for office hours and help times. Students will be encouraged to attend office hours to work with their teachers to get extra help, just as they would if we were at school in person.
- We will follow the schedule below for students to come to Orchard, meet their three team teachers and gather textbooks, Chromebooks, workbooks, supplemental reading materials and other information they will need to start the year. PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENT BRING THEIR BACKPACK TO CARRY THEIR SUPPLIES.
- Students MUST wear masks when they enter the building through their assigned door. Teachers and other Orchard team members will assist students upon entering the building.
- Doors are assigned based on student's homeroom. Please see the enclosed chart.

**Dates for Pick-Up:** 8/21, 8/24 & 8/25 from Noon – 3 p.m.

Students should come to school on either August 21, 24 or 25 based on the alphabetical distribution list below:

LAST NAME	PICK-UP TIME
A – E	12:00PM – 12:30PM
F – I	12:30PM – 1:00PM
J – L	1:00PM – 1:30PM
M – P	1:30PM – 2:00PM
Q – S	2:00PM – 2:30PM
T – Z	2:30PM – 3:00PM

We understand the difficulty all of us face when we are not as connected in person to one another. We want our students and families to know that even though we are learning remotely for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, our counselors, school psychologist and administrators are still available to meet virtually with our students to provide them the support they need to be successful and navigate these challenging times.

We appreciate your patience and support during this time. We hope you enjoy the remaining days of summer vacation. We are looking forward to an exciting and successful year of learning for all.

Sincerely,



Cari Mineard  
Principal