



July 20, 2009
28 Tammuz 5769

Dear Pardes Parents,

Welcome back to school! We have been working all summer to get ready for a great 2009/2010 school year! Below is some information and suggestions to make your first day of school a real success.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009

- Kindergarten, first and second grades will have 15 minute parent conferences.
- Grades 3-8 will have a half day of school, ending at noon.
- Grades 3-4 start promptly at 8:30AM. All students go directly to their assigned classroom.
- Grades 5-8 start promptly at 8:15AM. All middle school students go directly to the Sanctuary to meet the middle school teachers. You will be assigned your homeroom at that time.

ORIENTATION FOR KINDERGARTEN, FIRST AND SECOND GRADE is Monday, August 17th. Your classroom assignment and conference time is in this mailing. This conference is the time for you and your child to meet and talk with the teacher, explore the classroom, drop off your school supplies and ask any questions. Each conference will last 15 minutes.

ORIENTATION FOR GRADES 3 AND 4 is Monday, August 17, 2009 from 8:30-noon. Students in grades three and four go directly to their assigned classroom. This will be the time your students will see old friends, meet new ones, go over the student handbook, learn about their new teacher and their new grade.

ORIENTATION FOR GRADES 5 THROUGH 8 is Monday, August 17, 2009 from 8:15-noon. All middle school students go directly to the Sanctuary at which point you will meet the middle school teachers and be assigned to your homeroom. Everything your student needs to know in order to have a successful year will be discussed, shown and stated during this orientation time!

If any parent wants to schedule a conference before school starts, please call the school and schedule one with your student's teacher the week of August 11.

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STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOKS will be distributed to the students on Monday, August 17. Please take the time to read the handbook with your student. Many of your questions will be answered and your student will have an easier transition into the new school year when the school procedures are understood.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- If you have a student in middle school and another student in lower school, there is no charge for morning care for the lower school student who has to come early for their older sibling. It is essential for all middle school students to be on campus by 8:05, allowing them to get themselves organized before class starts promptly at 8:15.
- Report Cards will be sent out 4 times during the year. Kindergarten mini-conferences will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14, 15 and 16. Each Kindergarten teacher will take one of those days to meet with you. Conferences for grades K-8 will be held November 12-13 from 12:30-5:30. Conference times will be designated at a later date.
- School lunches may be ordered through our Kosher kitchen or you may pack your students' lunch. Remember, no pork or shellfish products may be brought onto the campus. Some classrooms are peanut free; please keep that in mind when packing lunch. You are encouraged to send a healthy morning snack with your child.
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures are the same as last year. When you are in line, please drive up to the white ARROW. Only let your student into or out of your car in the "student drop-off and pick-up zone". Keep the crosswalk clear at all times.
- PLEASE MARK YOUR STUDENTS' CLOTHING WITH THEIR NAME OR INITIALS, ESPECIALLY SWEATERS, SWEATSHIRTS AND JACKETS! ALSO, MAKE SURE TO MARK ALL CALCULATORS.
- Arrangements for middle school students turning in late work have changed. Please refer to homework details in the student-parent handbook.

In keeping with our Jewish values of Tikkun Olam, we are asking all of our students to bring a box or can of food to be donated to the Paradise Valley Food Bank on the first day of school, August 17.

Enjoy your summer! I am looking forward to seeing all of the students for another wonderful, engaging and fun year of learning at Pardes.

L'hitraot,

**Tobee Waxenberg
Assistant Head of School**