



Moore Mustang Hitching Post

From the Desk of the Principal

Summer 2019

Welcome!

We are looking forward to having students in the building once again. We've been working to make sure that your student has an amazing school year.

6th Grade Orientation Day

The first day for 6th graders is August 14th. It is an orientation day, busses and lunch will be provided. Students should not bring backpacks/supplies.

W.E.B Leaders will be calling home a few days before school starts to introduce themselves to your student.



The 7th and 8th grade students will start on Thursday, August 15th.

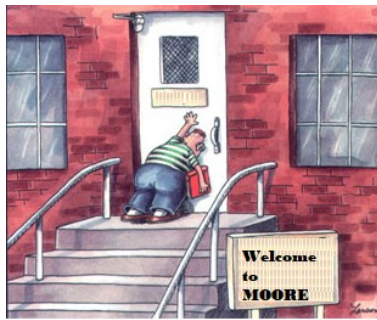
Entry to school

There are three designated areas for students to lineup to ease entry to the building in the mornings.

8th grade—back entry by the recess fields

7th grade—cafeteria side doors

6th grade—front doors



Students arriving for breakfast will enter through the cafeteria side doors, regardless of grade.



Lockers and Binders

Student access to lockers will be restricted to before school, before and after lunch/recess, and after school. Students have a four-minute passing period between classes and need to use this time to use the bathroom and get to their next class on time.

Students will need to have an **AM binder** and a **PM binder** which can be used for multiple classes. Students will be expected to also carry a **silent reading book** and a **writing utensil**. As students go to lunch/ recess they can drop their AM binder and materials off and head to recess or the cafeteria. After lunch/recess they can return to their locker and pick up their PM binder and materials and head to their after-noon classes.

Dress Code

We will start the year with the following dress code: Appropriate dress includes clothing that continuously covers the chest, back, stomach, underarms, buttocks and upper thighs. Shoes must be worn at all times.

In August, we will convene a group of interested parents and students to develop a more specific, acceptable dress code. Please email Brenda Fletcher if you would like to participate.

Friends, Not Followers

During the 2018-2019 school year, students who brought cell-phones to school were asked to keep their phones in their locker during the school day. We had really great feedback from parents and students and our number of cyberbullying incidents went down.



We will continue to follow this policy. Students will have access to their phones before school, as they go to their lockers before lunch and after recess, and at the end of the school day. Parents needing to get a message to their student can contact the office and a message will be delivered to their students at a time that does not disrupt classroom activities. Parents may also send messages to their students' phones for students to receive at times they were allowed at their lockers.

Smart watches connected to cell phones are to remain in lockers during the school day, unless connected to a medical device.

Why the policy? Research shows that middle-schoolers

do better with phones away during school hours. In a recent US News [article](#), research shows that allowing cell phones and laptops in a classroom leads to lower test scores of not only the person with the electronics but also those around them. An [article](#) from Psycom lays out the statistics of teen internet use and addiction. This addiction has caused students to interact with their phones more frequently throughout the school day, which limits their ability to stay focused on school. Pacer.org reports that cyberbullying has doubled within the past ten years and restricting student access to the internet during the school day can curb the events that occur at school and take students from class.

AwayfortheDay.org reports teens who spend more time in person with friends than those who don't are 20% more likely to report being happy.

Classrooms at Moore will have access to Chromebooks, which will allow students to have access to technology to complete classroom objectives and tasks.

Safety Concern

"But during an emergency I want to know my student is safe." This is a common concern for parents and we rec-

ognize it. During an emergency situation, it is extremely important that students are quiet and safe. First responders also need the channels to be open and not overloaded by cell phone use.

Security experts warn of the dangers of cell phones in emergency situations, such as:

1. Using phones can distract people from the actions they need to be taking in the moment (running, hiding, listening to directions).
2. The sound of the phone (ringing or on vibrate) could alert an assailant to a hiding place.
3. The shooter could be monitoring the event themselves on social media and find more victims or elude capture that way.
4. Victims and worried family members trying to get through can jam communications, interfering with first responders.

We have ensured that every classroom has a landline and teachers have a cell phone, if needed. We acknowledge the concerns about safety and this is one way that we are making the school safer for our students.

Tech Savvy kids and apps are on the rise

There has been an increase in children and teens using secret file storage to hide items (such as pictures and inappropriate content) in their phone.

Private Photo Vault



As a parent, it is important to play a role in your student’s digital safety and security. **Digital Futures Initiatives** is a site that has numerous resources for parents to stay in touch with the latest trends and plans for keeping your student safe in the digital age. According to DFInow.org, “kids who have something to hide, will do just that. Vaults, Ghost apps or Hidden apps are designed to disguise themselves as a common app (Calculator, music, file manager, etc.) but with the correct passcode – open the secret storage area. Check out the more popular ghost apps at DFInow.org.

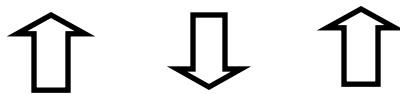
Tutorials

Students may stay after school for tutorials. A schedule of tutorial days will be provided in August. Students must report to their teacher no later than 2:35 and will be released at 3:15.

Stairway to Learning

To alleviate congestion on the stairs between classes, students heading downstairs for class will use the middle stairwell and those going upstairs to class will use the two end stairwells to go up.

Remember: Down middle, Up end.





Lunches are grade specific this year with 6th grade eating during 3rd period, 7th grade eating during 4th period and 8th during 5th period.

We are combining the lunch and recess time into a single 36 minute period. Students will report to the cafeteria and eat for at least the first 10 minutes. Students will then be dismissed for recess when they have thrown away their trash and wiped down their spot at the table. This allows students to have more time to eat or more time to be outside, based on their needs.

Family Dinners

Each month, usually the 3rd Wednesday from 6-8 pm, we invite our families to share a meal, connect with other families, and learn with your students. We provide the main course and side dishes while families bring dessert and the entire family.



Each department takes a month and develops activities for families to do that are aligned with what students are learning in class. This is a great opportunity to talk with teachers and staff, stay informed about what is happening at school, give feedback on things like our improvement plan, what is going well and what needs improvement, as well as learning how to help your student academically.

Tardy Policy

It is no surprise that students need to be to class on time to get the most learning. To discourage



chronic tardies, we adhere to the following consequences for multiple tardies to school or class. Note that tardy counts restart at semester.

UNEXCUSED TARDIES TO CLASS:

- 3+ tardies = warning from teacher and parent phone call
- 5+ tardies = lunch intervention with socio-emotional learning specialist
- 10+ tardies = office referral, disciplinary action, and possible loss of passing period

LATE ARRIVAL IN THE MORNING: Students who arrive late to school must check in at the Attendance Office and receive a pass before going to class. **Late arrival for reasons other than a verified appointment with a physician will result in an unexcused tardy.**

Students who persist in arriving late will face consequences.

Activity/late Bus

We offer an activity/late bus Mondays, Tuesdays, and



Thursdays for students who stay for tutorials, detention,

and clubs/activities. It leaves Moore at 4:00 and stops at Parr, Castle Gate, and War-der.



At Moore Middle School, we strongly believe parents and teachers are partners in your student’s success. Here are some recommendations that can help you stay connected:

- Call and email teachers.
- Check grades on Parent Portal 1-2 times/week.
- Attend school events, conferences, and Family Dinners.
- Understand the policies and expectations in the planner and the Code of Conduct book.
- Provide a place and a high expectation for completing all work.
- Know your child’s friends, the parents of those friends, and what your child is doing during non-school hours.
- Get involved in the classroom, PTO, family advisory groups, and other opportunities.

New Staff

While we still have some hiring yet to finalize we would like to welcome a few new additions to the Moore team.

- Travis Schuettpelz– Facili-ties Manager
- ESL—TBD
- ELA—TBD
- Math—TBD
- Math/Science—
- Counseling—TBD
- Special Education Dept.—TBD
- Kitchen Manager—Diane Burton

Links for parents

[9 News Series- Teens talk candidly about Social Media Concerns.](#)

[9 News Series- Teens discuss the impact of social media on self-esteem](#)

[Awayfortheday.org- From the makers of the film Screenagers](#)

[Digital Future Initiative: For Parents](#)

[Digital Futures Initiative: Hidden Vaults and Containers](#)

[Pacer.org- Antibullying](#)

[Electronics in Class Lead to Lower Test Scores](#)

[Teenage Cell Phone Addiction: Are You Worried About Your Child?](#)