

Madison News 8-8-2015

Greetings Madison families! August is here and it is time to begin thinking about the start of school!! I hope your kiddos are getting ready for school to start because I know the teachers are getting ready. I have a few things for you to note before the year begins....

Playground updates - Our playground looks different! If you recall, we were gathering input on making playground changes. When Madison was designed and built there was no preschool in our district. Since then we have about 100 preschool students at Madison. We reorganized several pieces of equipment and moved them to the northeast part of the playground for more of an age 2-5 area. This area also has a rubber surface underneath it - no more woodchips! :) The main part of the playground equipment got an update too. Several pieces of equipment that were yellow had faded significantly. We replaced those pieces of equipment with different basic colors. The woodchips will remain under the main part of the playground for now. The last part of the playground is a green area that kids used to play football and soccer. This area was always a mud pit when it rained because it was very difficult to get grass to grow. Now we have fake grass in that area! We have a section of turf that should remain pretty "clean" most of the time. We also reworked some drainage in the playground to help with some water control issues. We are looking forward to the playground additions.

New faces - We did not have much change this year for teachers. The one big change is in our office - Gail retired. Her replacement is Mrs. Sarah Rhoten. Sarah is a Madison parent and has worked for us previously in the preschool area. Stop in some time and introduce yourself to Sarah. Be sure and congratulate Gail on her retirement when you see her in the community. The only other change is that Joleen Roorda is returning to the kindergarten classroom. She was on loan to Central College last year as an adjunct instructor. Ms. Slager, who took Mrs. Roorda's place last year has moved to second grade. Mrs. Westerkamp (2nd grade) left us to pursue other employment in the community. Mrs. Vanderstreek (3rd grade) and Mrs. Hatch (kindergarten) moved to Lincoln Elementary this year.

Class lists - We will post the class lists late next week. We have several changes in our student population that are happening now, so it makes it hard to release class lists due to these changes. I am hoping most of the changes will be done by next week so we can release lists. We will post them on the Pella Schools website. We will also post hard copies of the class lists on the outside doors at Madison.

Madison clothing - We have been working on a line of clothing with the Pella logo and the Madison name in the works. You can order clothing (t-shirts, caps, hoodies etc.) for you and your kiddos through Sportspage. We will communicate a ordering link to you soon. You can pay online for these items.

Meet the Teacher - We will host our Meet the Teacher time on Friday, August 21st from 2:00-3:30pm. You are welcome to stop by Madison and bring your child's school supplies and drop them off, meet their teacher and see the classroom. The room will still be under construction as teachers will still be setting up for the following Monday. We look forward to seeing you at that time!

First day of school - Remember school starts on August 24th. All registration is online this year. If you have questions on registration or need assistance with portal passwords contact Allissa Grandia, registrar, at the high school. Feel free to contact Sarah or me at school at 628-4638 with any other questions or issues. We are going to start school at 8:25am this year instead of 8:30am as a way to capture a few more minutes in our day. Students can wait in the cafeteria before school from 7:45am to 8:05am at which time they will head outside for recess time. They will come in at 8:20am and be ready to learn at 8:25am. We will dismiss at 3:25am as normal.

Supplies - Our school supply list is attached on the Pella school website for you to review.

Immunizations and health records - We need to have record of your child's immunizations. You can find this information on Pella Schools website under the "District" tab and then to "District Health".

Parking - Remember we use the east side parking lot (by the gym) for drop off and pick up of students. The front lane is to be kept open for bus traffic both before school and after school. You are welcome to use the bus lane during the school day (after 8:30 and before 3:00pm).

Lunch - You can pay into your child's lunch account during registration time or drop off money at school.

That is it for now! I look forward to seeing you and your child at school this year! We are excited to partner with you in the educating of your kiddos!! Stop by and say hi sometime this year!