



# PANTHER PAWS

JOHNSON PARK MS Newsletter

Issue 1 August 2018

## Principal News: Mr. David Walker

It is with great pleasure I welcome all of you to the 2018-2019 school year at Johnson Park MS.

Our administrative team and teachers have been working hard preparing for your students' return. As a reminder, Johnson Park is a Title 1 school in Columbus City Schools, which means based on our student academic growth being below the state minimum requirements and overall school student poverty level, we will receive federal money for students, teachers, and family support. With this additional financial means, we are confident our student body will be able to continue broadening their learning capacity through many resources - including technology.

To assist in their endeavors, we have returning community partnerships, as well as new in-house programming to work with our students through the mentoring of reading focuses, future planning and using technology to improve academic success:

-We will have a reading intensive course for all grade levels to help move reading literacy 1.5 grade levels.

Our administrative team will continue to be focused not only on supporting teachers and staff, but supporting our student body as well. Ms. Carlita Bell is joining us this year as our newly promoted Assistant Principal (6th and 7th grade administrator). We are excited to have her as part of our Panther family. The strength of our administrative team will continue to help guide our students' towards a successful school year and beyond.

Fall Sports for this year will again include Soccer for 7th and 8th grade students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements as stated by the district. This year our Volleyball coach will be Mrs. Russell. Students must have a current physical card on file and carry at least a 2.0 grade point average from the 4th quarter of last school year. If you have questions about Johnson Park athletics or eligibility, please call the main office at 614-365-6501.

All 7th grade students will need an updated shot record on file with the school nurse in order to start school on time. Information about these vaccination was given to families at the end of last year. If your 7th grader has had their shots, please provide the documentation to Nurse Judy as soon as possible. Any questions or concerns about vaccinations may be addressed by calling Nurse Judy via the main office.

Again we look forward to working with all of you and are excited for a great new year!

David W. Walker, Jr.

## CALENDAR

### August

**22: 6th Grade Orientation**  
3:00-5:00 p.m.

**23: First Day of School**

### September

**4: Labor Day- No School**  
**12: Early Release Day @1:00**  
**19: Open House 5:00-6:30**  
**24: Interims sent home this Week!**

## In This Issue

- Principal News
  - Title 1 Info
  - School Programs
  - Admin Team
  - Athletics
  - Vaccinations
  - Calendar Dates

## House Bill 410 Requirements

### HOUSE BILL 410

A new bill has been put in place pertaining to the attendance of students. This house bill will now be tracking student attendance (absences - excused or unexcused and tardies) by **hours**, not days as it has been in past years. This means students getting to school on time and being in attendance regularly, is more important than ever before.

Once a student has reached a certain number of **hours** missed from school (second paragraph below), truancy letters will be generated and sent out to families. Please read the follow:

The law changes the definition of "habitual truant" to any student who is absent without legitimate excuse for:

- 30+ consecutive hours (or 1.25 days);
- 42+ hours in one school month (or 1.75 days); or
- 72+ hours in one school year (or 3 days)

Previously, it was 5+ consecutive days, 7+ days in one month, or 12+ days in one school year.

The law requires notification to the student's parent/guardian of the students' absences (both excused and unexcused) once they reach:

- 38+ hours in one school month (or 1.6 days); or
- 65+ hours in one school year (or 2.7 days)

\*\*\*\*Notice must be given within seven days of the triggering event. These totals does include tardies to school.\*\*\*\*

To assist with this new house bill, Johnson Park MS will establish, effective for the 2018-2019 school year, the following rule:

**There will be no student pick-up between the hour of 1:30-2:30 p.m. daily. This has been a problem in the past. We are trying to limit the number of interruptions during the school day, especially the last two periods of the day. The last hour of school is just as important as the first. We want to give all our students every opportunity to learn during every hour they are in attendance.**

- With administrator approval, only extreme emergencies will be the exception to this rule.
- The administrative team is also asking families to be thoughtful and not call the school during that last hour to give messages to their students. The latter part of the day is the busiest for our support staff. Due to the business of the day, there is no guarantee messages will get delivered to students prior to the 2:30 p.m. dismissal. Again, only under extreme emergencies will support staff do their best to pass messages along.

We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation of the above. Information for House Bill 410 will be available for families in the main office. Please don't hesitate to call your grade level administrator if you have additional questions.

## WednesdaySchool

Wednesday School is part of our school discipline plan. It is assigned for conduct that disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom of the school. This conduct will be described as Level 1 behaviors on page 6 of the Guide to Positive Students Behavior. Parents will be given 24 hours notice prior to the time to be served. Assignments are served from 2:45p.m.– 4:00 p.m. It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation. Students who do not serve their Wednesday assignment may be removed from school for a conference with parents.

Pictures

### **Extended Learning Opportunities**

Throughout the year, your student will be given different opportunities to extend his or her learning. As of right now, students should be coming home talking about Achieve 3000 and ALEKS. Please take time in the evening to log into the website and work on some extras. ALEKS is our district wide math program where students have topics that align to the curriculum. Students who master topics will be invited to an exclusive party just for those who have achieved this success! For more information on these two programs, please contact your students' teachers.

### **Picture Day**

Picture Day is October 1, 2018, (Retakes in November. The date will be announced in next newsletter).