

2 0 1 0 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

Alice DEAL Newsletter



Almost done!!

After much back and forth about the fate of our field, work finally began this summer!! The large piles of dirt have been leveled and we will soon have a field that has been designed for soccer, baseball, and softball!

We are also working on beautifying the front entrance to the school before you arrive. The last step will be to plant trees!



✘ Welcome Deal Vikings! ✘

“Think Globally. Listen Compassionately. Act Inclusively.”

PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME

Dear Deal students and families:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2010 - 2011 school year at Alice Deal Middle School! I am proud to report that according to the results of the 2010 DC CAS, we continue to be the highest performing middle school in the city! Nice work everyone!

The summer has been busy! We hosted our neighbors from Wilson High School in our building during their facilities transition. (The Wilson renovation plans look great, and I can't wait for our students to have a stunning space to matriculate to.) Also, our fabulously dedicated teachers

hosted the second year of Deal Summer Bridge with 25 incoming 6th graders, each of whom now has a solid foundation for success in our math program. Finally, we are in the last phase of our modernization -- renovating our front walkway and preparing the field for use this Fall!

For those of you who are returning to Deal, you know our teachers are extremely dedicated educators who are experts in their content areas. All our teachers are committed to making sure that the academic program continues to progress at rigorous levels. We also know that in middle school, the key to academic success
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Get Involved!

Extra-curricular activities are one of the best ways to thrive at Deal! Middle-level research shows that students who are involved in activities have a much more successful experience socially and academically. Each Deal teacher shares a passion by sponsoring a club after school! Start thinking about what you

might want to join! Just a few of the options at Deal are:

student council, jazz band, choir, soccer, softball, volleyball, fencing, cross-country, indoor track, basketball, cooking club, gardening club, running club, Spanish club, human rights club, science club, African drumming, art club, rugby, environmental

club, recyclers, movie club, & ultimate frisbee!

Details about Deal's extra-curricular activities will be published in the Weekly Bulletin as teachers begin to meet with students! If you have not yet signed up for the Weekly Bulletin, you can join the mailing list at www.alicedeal.org

Welcome from the Deal PTA

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year!

We hope you are enjoying summer and getting ready to play an active role in our school's community. We need every family to join our PTA and help make Deal the best middle school possible. Toward that end, the Deal PTA has several goals:

1. Raise funds to provide academic, sports, arts, and leadership programs that support and enrich our children's experiences at Deal;
2. Provide information and avenues of communication among Deal parents, the school administration, and the larger community; and
3. Offer opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to be involved in their children's academic and social life.

Enclosed in the summer mailing is a wealth of information about the Deal PTA and how you can contribute. Please take a few minutes to read, complete, and return these materials to school. It will help us get the year off to an excellent start!

Regular PTA meetings are usually held in conjunction with parent education sessions or other school activities. We will provide more detailed information about the agenda for each meeting in the monthly PTA newsletter and on the Deal listserv. Please join us: every meeting gives you a chance to ask questions, make suggestions, and meet and talk with other parents.

We look forward to a wonderful year. If you have any questions, or want to get involved, please contact us. The PTA needs you—we always welcome new faces and new ideas!

Jane Meroney, PTA Co-President
meroneyj@yahoo.com or (202) 244-2619

Dianne Torresen, PTA Co-President
torresen@comcast.net or (202) 244-3718

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

FRIDAY, AUG. 20TH
6th grade orientation
10 - 1 pm

SATURDAY, AUG. 21ST
Deal Beautification Day
8 am - 12 pm

MONDAY, AUG. 23
1st Day of School!
School begins at 8:30
am

Wednesday, Sept. 1
1st PTA Meeting/
Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7TH
Back-to-School Night
6 - 9 pm

MONDAY, SEPT. 27TH
IB Curriculum Night
6:30 - 8 pm



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(from page 1) is building strong relationships. Our teachers share their passion with students by sponsoring an extracurricular club. I hope you will take the opportunity to try something new this school year and to get to know a teacher by joining a club.

Students, you have only a few more days before school starts again. Finish your summer reading and brush up on your multiplication facts. Without a solid foundation of basic math

facts, you will struggle to keep up!

Parents, remember that children at the middle school level may ask you to be less involved in their school life. But research tells us that adolescent children are more successful with strong parental involvement. We need to keep each other informed for the best interest of the child, no matter what they may prefer.

Teachers, counselors, and administrators can be reached by calling the welcome center or by email. We will respond to calls and emails within 48 hours. On the rare occasion when a call is not returned, any of the administrators will be happy to assist you.

The Deal PTA is our strongest and most dynamic partner! I encourage each parent to be an active member of the PTA.

Each family has some talent to share with the Deal community, and the PTA is a great way to contribute and connect. It is also a great way to model civic engagement for your teen. I am looking forward to receiving the report that 100% of families are PTA members!

Finally, if you have not yet registered for school, please do so immediately. We also need many of you to update your child's immunizations and health records. Please contact our nurse, Ms. Pringle, (202-939-2009) with any questions.

I wish you all a very successful and productive school year! See you bright and early on August 23rd!

Dr. Melissa M. Kim

melissa.kim@dc.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT!

Q: How do I stay connected with what is going on at school?

A: Our website (www.alicedeal.org) received a facelift this summer, thanks to Ms. Isaacson, one of our media specialists. It is full of information about our school, and we will continue to add to it throughout the year. Also, you should sign up to receive the Weekly Bulletin, which is emailed each Sunday evening. The Bulletin is the best way to find out what is happening at school! Finally, each teacher posts homework on Edline weekly and updates grades bi-weekly. This is a great way to check in on academic progress!

Q: What can I expect on the 6th grade orientation day?

A: 6th grade orientation is on Friday, August 20th. The schedule for orientation day is as follows:

10 a.m. - Students will receive schedules and gather in the auditorium.

10:15 a.m. - Students exit with their homeroom teachers and move through a truncated school day, going to all of their classrooms and meeting all of their teachers and classmates.

10:25 a.m. - Parents' session & information panel, led by the PTA, Ms. Neal & Dr. Kim.

12:10 p.m. - Pizza Picnic!

1 p.m. - Leave for the day!

GREETINGS FROM THE ALICE DEAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT!

We are looking forward to another exciting school year, continuing Alice Deal's tradition of strong interscholastic athletics and the development of well-rounded student-athletes. Please encourage your child to participate in one of the fall sports or clubs available. Participation in scholastic sports and clubs is beneficial to our students and the total school community.

Here is a list of fall sports available for the 2010-2011 school year:

Boys Soccer – Coach Mbayu
Girls Soccer – Coach Ngwa
Boys Cross Country – Coach Geremia
Girls Cross Country – Coach Jenkins
Girls Volleyball – Coach Ortiz

Construction has begun on our new, synthetic-grass athletic field. This will be an excellent facility for us to host home games, as well as regular class activities.

Please remember to get a complete sports physical for the upcoming school year. A copy of your child's physical should be submitted to the school nurse. Athletic consent forms, Emergency treatment forms, and Physical forms can be downloaded by using the following link:

<http://www.wilsonhs.org/sports/forms/>

Let's make it a great school year &
GO VIKINGS!!!

Neal Downing
Alice Deal Middle School
Athletics
202-327-4875 cell
coachdowning@yahoo.com

Preparing for the First Day of School

Procedures...

For those of you who are joining us for the first time, you may be wondering what to expect on the first day of school. It is natural to feel nervous -- and excited. Take a breath -- don't worry. There will be plenty of teachers and friendly 7th and 8th grade students around to help direct and guide you to where you need to be. It might make you feel better to know that it took the teachers some time to learn the building when it was brand new to us last year! Last year's students told us



that it took them about two weeks to figure it all out.

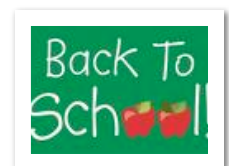
Just remember to arrive to school no later than 8:30 a.m.

On the first day, all students will pick up their schedules at grade-specific tables (8th grade by the gym, 7th grade by the West Wing, 6th grade at the front of the building). After picking up your schedules, 7th and 8th graders will report directly to their homeroom classes. 6th graders will gather in the auditorium for a brief orientation. Your

teachers will pick you up in the auditorium and from there you will proceed through your schedule.

Everyone will attend six classes and a lunch/recess period. Your teachers will be in the hallways during each change of class to help you find your way.

All you need to do is get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and get to school on time. If you do that, you will be prepared for a smooth first day!





Summer Math Bridge

DIVIDE AND CONQUER!

This summer, 25 incoming Deal 6th graders joined Deal teachers Mr. Assael Ms. Lerum, Mr. Kirschenbaum, and Ms. Philip on a quest to improve their math skills. Intent on beginning their middle school years successfully, students solidified their arithmetic skills for three weeks this summer. Students challenged themselves to

improve their daily speed drill scores while also gaining knowledge of math skills and concepts that they will use during their 6th grade year. One student remarked, "My favorite thing was the speed drills because they showed how much I improved." Further, students identified the skills they needed to improve and worked daily to learn and practice their skills. In addition to honing their math skills, the students made new friends, familiarized themselves with

the Deal building, and practiced opening and closing a lock on a locker – small steps to reduce stress during the first days of school. The Bridge Program is a great success and its impact will be felt from Day 1 of the school year, as well as through our students' years at Deal. We are excited to see how far these scholars will soar!

- Mr. Kirschenbaum

Deal Teachers Shine at IB Workshop!

Soon after the 2009-2010 school year came to a close, 11 Alice Deal teachers (Ms Buerkle, Mr. Lotts, Ms. Henderson, Mr. Mungai, Mr. Assael, Mr. Downing, Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Clements, Ms. Mason, Ms. Kouri, and Ms. Bustos) took Princeton by storm at the IB MYP implementation workshop. During the school year, Deal teachers scrutinized their plans for all three years of instruction, including assessment tasks, rubrics, and expectations. This effort proved very useful at Princeton, as our teachers felt comfortable, prepared, and eager to contribute.

The teachers reflected after the workshop on the experience. "Attending the workshop helped solidify my understanding of IB and its components," wrote one, who added, "[t]he lingo and terminology of IB is overwhelming at times. I think those that are IB experts tend to forget that it is a new language for many of us." Another appreciated a presenter, whose "ability to explain how IB works within the math setting was very helpful for me. . . I can see how it will be helpful in the classroom. I feel much more confident with working in the IB realm." Another Deal teacher said, "We covered a lot of ground on IB assessment and I found the grading/

assessment system to be both terrifying and more thorough. I do think it will take getting used to . . ."

These teachers will join others at Deal who received IB training over the last few years. As they return to their classrooms and working with their colleagues, they will be able to share a deeper understanding of the potential of the IB program and the tools to help reach that potential.

In addition, Assistant Principal Diedre Neal and IB Coordinator James Albright joined 1,200 colleagues from IB schools across the hemisphere at the IB Americas 2010 Annual Regional Conference in Miami, Florida. The conference was a combination of exciting, challenging workshops and exposure to the "big ideas" that help define the IB.

We became the 1st authorized IB Middle Years School in DCPS last year and we are ready to take it to the next level this year!

- Mr. Albright

The Deal After School Program: EXPLORER TIME

Nearly 100 Deal students have signed up for our afterschool program, which meets Monday-Friday from 3:30-6:15 pm and will begin on the first day of school. Students will be grouped according to grade level and will work on homework with the supervision and support of Deal teachers. They will also have a daily snack and participate in games and informal sports activities. The program is designed to wrap around the dozens of clubs and team-based tutoring opportunities provided by Deal staff, so students can sign up for clubs and also be part of Explorer Time. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the program should complete the "Intent to Enroll in the DCPS Afterschool Program" form that was included with registration materials from DCPS and is available at the Welcome Center. For more information please e-mail program coordinator Margaret Berkey: margaret.berkey@dc.gov

Deal Charter Bus Schedule



School Supplies!

AM SCHEDULE

ROUTE#	DEPARTURE TIME	ARRIVAL TIME
D-31	16th & Eastern/ 7:46	Deal/ 8:25
D-32	14th & Irving (Columbia Heights Metro) 7:58 & 8:03	Deal/ 8:20 & 8:25
D-32	Mt.Pleasant & Lamont/ 8:03 & 8:08	Deal/ 8:20 & 8:25
D-33	16th & AR/ 8:08	Deal/ 8:25
D-34	14th & CO/8:10	Deal/ 8:25

PM SCHEDULE

ROUTE #	DEPARTURE TIME	ARRIVAL TIME
D-31	Deal/ 3:30	16th & Eastern/ 3:52
D-32	Deal/ 3:30	Mt.Pleasant & Lamont/ 3:46
D-32	Deal/ 3:30	14th & Irving (Columbia Heights Metro)/ 3:50
D-33	Deal/ 3:30	16th & AR/ 3:46
D-34	Deal/ 3:30	14th & CO/ 3:45

1. A 3-ring, 2-inch binder with dividers for each of the six different courses.
2. Loose-leaf paper for the binder.
3. Pencils & Pens. (Deal will give you a clear pencil case on the first day of school.)
4. Ruler, calculator, & graph paper notebook for math class.
5. Color pencils. NO markers!
6. A box of tissues for your homeroom teacher.
7. USB thumb drive.
8. Book covers.
9. A positive & open attitude.

**Office Depot has a 5% Back to Schools Program!
Deal's ID number is: 70020203 Please remember Deal when you shop!**

6TH GRADE ORIENTATION NEWS FROM MS. NEAL!

Hello! As the 6th grade assistant principal, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents and guardians of our incoming sixth graders, as well as to the 6th grade students. The entire Deal faculty and I are looking forward to working closely with you over the next three years. We are confident that the incoming 6th graders will enjoy an awesome and challenging educational experience during this very important time in their lives.

All 6th graders and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend the 6th grade orientation on Friday, August 20, beginning promptly at 10 am in the auditorium. During the orientation, Dr. Kim, Mr. Albright, and our counselors will be available to provide an overview of the sixth grade program for the 2010-2011 school year. Former 6th graders and their parents will also be available to talk about their experiences, share advice, and address questions. Additionally, our 6th grade students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers and visit all of their classes. The orientation will end with a pizza lunch for students in the cafeteria (yes, the famous cafeteria from Top Chef).

We have also planned a variety of opportunities for incoming families to "get to know us" and to facilitate the transition to Deal. On Tuesday, August 31, and Wednesday, September 1st, we will host a series of 6th Grade Transition Workshops where members of the Deal community will provide information on a variety of topics including: communication at Deal, EdLine, extra-curricular activities & sports, strategies for organization, etc.

The coming months will be a very busy time for all of us. However, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (diedre.neal@dc.gov). I am looking forward to an exciting year!!