

ALICE DEAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT SCHOOL NUMBERS

MAIN OFFICE:
202-939-2010

COUNSELING SERVICES:
MR. SANTIAGO - 7TH GRADE
202-373-4435

MS. MCFARLAND - 8TH GRADE
202-373-4426

MS. HERNANDEZ -
SST COORDINATOR,
ELL & SPECIAL ED COUNSELOR
202-373-8282

Develop Good Habits of Mind!

1. **Persisting**
2. **Managing impulsivity**
3. **Listening with understanding & empathy**
4. **Thinking flexibly**
5. **Thinking about thinking**
6. **Striving for accuracy**
7. **Questioning & posing problems**
8. **Applying past knowledge to new situations**
9. **Thinking and communicating with clarity & precision**
10. **Gathering data through all senses**
11. **Creating, imagining, & innovating**
12. **Responding with wonderment & awe**
13. **Taking responsible risks**
14. **Finding humor**
15. **Thinking interdependently**
16. **Remaining open to continuous learning.**

(Costa & Kallick, 2000)

Welcome, Deal Vikings!

Principal's Welcome

Dear Deal students and families:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2008 - 2009 school year at Alice Deal Middle School! According to the results of the 2008 DC CAS scores, we continue to be the highest performing middle school in the entire city!

Right before your eyes, our building will transform into a world-class facility that will match our top-notch educational program! You get to be the very first students to use our brand new gymnasium and cafeteria! You will also have some of your classes in newly modernized classrooms! You will be a proud part of Deal's history as you learn and grow with the school building this

year. You can track the progress of Deal's modernization by checking on the Deal PTA website (www.dealpta.org).

The teachers at Alice Deal are extremely dedicated educators who possess passion and expertise in their content areas. The core teams for this year are listed on the last page of the newsletter. Each team has a team leader who will serve as the main point of contact for communication. The team leaders have asterisks behind their names. All of the teachers, including elective teachers, are committed to making sure that the academic program continues to progress at rigorous levels.

In order to help ensure a successful school year, take

Save the Date 7th Graders! August 22nd @ 10am

We are so excited to have you with us! One of the biggest concerns for parents and students during the transition from elementary school to middle school is that students may "get lost" in a larger school setting. **Have no fear!** We have been studying what other good middle schools do to better transition new students. Through the years, we expanded the "team" concept to create smaller learning communities for students, as well as create structures for improved

parent-teacher communications. Alice Deal also has started the tradition of hosting 7th grade orientation!

On Friday, August 22nd, 7th graders are invited to school from 10am - noon to meet their teachers and have an orientation before the 8th graders arrive on Monday. This is the time for you to meet your teachers and get your schedules.

The opening session for

Melissa M. Kim, Principal
Manuel Dacoba, Assistant Principal
Diedre Neal, Assistant Principal
Joyce Brooks, Special Education Coordinator
Clydie Spann, Dean of Students
James Albright, Academic/ IB Coordinator



the time to communicate regularly with your child's teachers and counselors. Speaking directly with the persons most involved in your child's school day will expedite the resolution of most concerns.

Children at the middle school level may ask parents to be less involved in their school life. But research tells us that adolescent children are more successful with strong parent involvement. We need to keep each other informed for the best interest of the child, no matter what they may prefer. (continued on page 2)

students will begin at 10am. Parent orientation begins at 11am. At 12 noon, parents and students are invited to join us for a PTA-sponsored pizza lunch in our new cafeteria. You can mingle with teachers and get to know other Deal families. If you cannot join us for lunch, please arrange to have your child picked up by 1pm. We hope to welcome new students and families to Deal!



Important Date Reminders

- August 22nd, 10 AM,
7th Grade Orientation
- August 25th, 8:30 AM,
First Day of School
- September 4th, 6:00 PM,
PTA reception
- September 25th,
6:30 - 9 PM,
Back to School Night

Principal's Message (continued)

(continued from page 1)
Teachers, counselors, and administrators can be reached by calling the main office or by email. We will respond to calls and emails within 48 hours. On the rare occasion a call is not returned, any of the administrators will be happy to assist you.

We are committed to building even stronger relationships with parents and families. I encourage each parent to be an active member of the PTA. The PTA is our

strongest and most dynamic partner! Each family has some talent to share with the Deal community, and the PTA is a great way to contribute. This also is a great way to model civic engagement for your child.

We would like to extend a very special welcome to our seventh graders and to our new students. We are excited to have you join the Deal family.

Please review the Deal Expectations listed on the last

page. Following these simple guidelines will ensure school success.

I wish you all a very successful and productive school year! See you August 25th!

Melissa M. Kim
Principal

(202) 282 - 0100

Melissa.Kim@dc.gov

“THINK

GLOBALLY.

LISTEN

COMPASSIONATELY.

ACT

INCLUSIVELY.”



Q: Is there an After-Care program?

A: No. Although we have various extra-curricular activities and tutorial sessions that are scheduled with teachers, we do not host an official after-care program. Unless students are under the direct supervision of a teacher after school, they will be dismissed at 3:15. As there is no personnel to supervise students after 3:30, please pick up your children on time!

Q: Can I just call if my child is absent or tardy?

A: No. We have a specific form for absences that needs to be submitted on the day the child returns to school. Copies of this form will be included in the First Day packet and can be printed from the website at www.dealpta.org. You will also receive a computerized phone message alerting you to your child's absence. Punctuality is an important part of school success and a valuable life habit!

Q: Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

A: Clear and open communication is essential for student success. If the question is specific to a class, please contact the teacher first. Your child may also be able to clarify information! Homeroom teachers and counselors also play a large role in the child's day. And, of course, any of the administrators will be able to assist you.

FAQs for Parents

The Alice Deal PTA welcomes you!

Dear Deal families:

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year from the Deal PTA! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to play an active role in our school's community. As you will see when you come to school this year, Deal's renovation is well underway. Your child will be a member of the first Alice Deal Middle School classes to benefit from our new gym and cafeteria and several modernized classrooms. We have one more year as a school with just 7th and 8th graders before Deal completes its transition to a 6-7-8 middle school. Because we have another year with only 2

grades, we need every family to provide volunteer hours and financial support so that your 7th or 8th grader can benefit from such “extras” as boys and girls athletic teams, an outstanding music program, and award-winning math and debate teams.

This year the Deal PTA will strive to achieve several goals:

1. Raise funds to provide academic, sports, and leadership programs that support and enrich our children's experience at Deal

2. Provide information and avenues of communication between the Deal parent body, the school administration, and the larger public school community
3. Provide many opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's academic and social life at Deal - especially at this important age for adolescents when that connection is vital.

We invite you to play an active role in the Deal PTA and your student's Deal experience this year. (continued on page 3)

Preparing for the 1st Day of School

1st Day

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. Take a breath - don't worry. There will be plenty of teachers and friendly 8th grade students around to help direct and guide you to where you need to be. Also, this year our school building is new to all of us because of new

construction, so we can get to know the building together!

Just remember to report to school no later than 8:30 AM.

On the first day, all students will pick up their schedules at grade-specific tables in front of the school. There will be signs and teachers guiding you.

After picking up your schedules at the table, 8th graders will gather in the new gymnasium and 7th graders will gather in the new cafeteria for a brief orientation .

Your teachers will pick you up and from there, you will proceed through the rest of your schedule. You 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!



Come to school prepared with the following:

1. A 3-ring, 2-inch binder, with dividers for each of the five different courses.
2. A clear pencil case with a few pencils and pens.
3. Loose-leaf paper for the binder.
4. Ruler, calculator, & graph paper.
5. Colored Pencils . **NO** markers please.
6. A box of tissues for your HR teacher.
7. Summer reading assignment and book logs.
8. A positive & open attitude.

Deal Charter Bus Schedule

AM Schedule

Route #s	Departure/ Times	Arrival/ Times
D-32	Mt. Pleasant / 7:58	Deal / 8:20
D-32	Mt. Pleasant / 8:03	Deal / 8:30
D-33	16th & AR / 8:03	Deal / 8:30
D-31	16th & Eastern / 8:03	Deal / 8:30
D-34	14th & CO / 8:15	Deal / 8:30
D-34	14th & CO / 8:15	Deal / 8:30

PM Schedule

Route #s	Departure/ Times	Arrival/ Times
D-32	Deal / 3:30	Mt. Ple / 3:50
D-32	Deal / 3:30	Mt. Ple / 3:50
D-33	Deal / 3:30	16th & AR / 3:45
D-31	Deal / 3:30	16th & Eastern / 3:45
D-34	Deal / 3:30	14th & CO / 3:52
D-34	Deal / 3:30	14th & CO / 3:46

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PRICES

Breakfast - Free

Lunch- \$1.50

Students who were eligible for free/reduced lunch last year will be served for the first few days until the new applications have been processed.

** !! We request that **all parents** complete the Free/Reduced Lunch Applications. This is vital for Deal to qualify for Title I funds!! **

PTA (continued)



(from page 2) Be sure to complete and return the forms in your child's 1st day packet. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the **first PTA Meeting/ Welcome Reception on Thursday, September 4th from 6 - 8 pm**, as well as our monthly PTA meetings throughout the year, which are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month (the full PTA calendar will be included in the "1st Day" packet that your child will bring home). We put more detailed information about the agenda for each meeting in the monthly PTA newsletter, on the PTA listserv, and on our website. Every meeting gives you a chance to meet with other parents and

learn about what is happening at Deal. To make sure you stay up-to-date and informed, be sure to:

Visit our website, www.dealpta.org, and join our listserv (add your name on the left hand "join our email tab" and press submit).

A few other important dates to note right now are:

7th Grade Orientation on Friday, August 22 from 10-1 pm (10-12 students, 11-12 parents, 12-1 pizza lunch for students and parents)

DCPS School Beautification Day on Saturday, August 23 from 8-1 pm at Deal

Back to School Night on Thursday, September

25th from 6:15 - 9 pm

The Deal Auction on Saturday, February 21st

We look forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions, or want to become involved the PTA needs you! Please contact Ruth Ernst at 332-7921 or melick-ernst@verizon.net or Sally Greenberg at 364-2531 or sallyg@nclnet.org.

We're always looking for new faces and new ideas!

Ruth Ernst & Sally Greenberg,
PTA Co-Presidents

ALICE DEAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summer Reading!

Hello Students! Your English teachers hope you are having a relaxing and “readingful” summer.

We wanted to remind you about your required summer reading. For each of the four books you read, complete the Reading Response Log found on the last page of the reading guide. Your log should be neat and attractive. These logs will be collected during the 1st week of school. Also, remember that during the first week of school you will take your first test of middle school on the required book for your grade level. If you haven’t started, it’s not too late! The book list is available on www.dealpta.org and also at the Politics and Prose book store.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and happy reading!

2008 Teams		
Aztecs 7	Green Scholars 7	
Mr. Hughes*	Ms. Spann-Goode	
Mr. Brandenburg	Ms. Norelli	
Ms. Wells	Ms. Mason	Olympians 7/8
Mr. Kirschenbaum	Mr. Geremia*	Mr. McDowell
		Mr. Mungai
Braveheart 8	Odyssey 8	Ms. Lerum*
Ms. Hovancsek	Mr. Klein	Ms. Kinzer
Mr. Koplowitz	Ms. Sweeney*	
Mr. Aguilera	Ms. Hampton	
Ms. Mostoller*	Ms. Simpson-Wayne	

Alice Deal

Expectations

1. Respect one another.
2. Be on time.
3. Be prepared for learning.
4. Dress for success.
5. Hold each other accountable.
6. Do the right thing!

GET INVOLVED!!

Extracurricular activities are a great way to get to know other students and interact with teachers in a different way! The relationships you build in clubs may be the ones you hold onto for many years to come! Following is a list of some extracurricular options. A more complete and detailed list will be posted on the school web site and shared with students after teachers and sponsors have created their schedules for this year.

Band - Orchestra - Jazz Band - 7th & 8th Grade Chorus - Show Choir - Cheerleading - Math Counts - Yearbook Club - National Jr. Honor Society - Recycling Club - Indoor & Outdoor Track - Volleyball - Girls & Boys Basketball - Chess Club - Student Council - Fencing - Girl's & Boys Soccer - Stage Crew - Debate- Peer Mediators - Drama Club - Softball - Baseball - Golf - Chinese Club - Yoga - Geek Squad - Art Club - Spanish Club - Tutoring - Deal Musical - Latin American Youth Club

Deal Teachers are Simply the BEST!

This summer many Deal teachers have been working hard to set the foundation for a successful school year.

1. The math department created pacing plans for the math classes and met with the new math teachers to get them acquainted with Deal.
2. The 7th grade social studies team started to develop projects, writing assignments, rubrics, and a final exam for Deal seventh grade students. They plan to use these developments to create an IB Yearly Planning Guide for the Humanities Level 2 course.
3. Ms. Mason & Ms. Wells worked to develop a transition plan for welcoming new students and beginning the school year off on the right foot!
4. The counseling team has been busy. Ms. McFarland attended the AVID conference as the Deal representative with a group of teachers and counselors from Wilson SHS. AVID is a program to support college-bound students who may be the

first in their family to attend college.

We hope to use this direct connection to better support all students in their transition to Wilson SHS. Ms. Hernandez has been working on setting up a high school workshop for families to prepare for application to high schools. And Mr. Santiago is excited to welcome the new 7th grade class!

5. Mr. Klein, Ms. Mostoller, Ms. Simpson-Wayne, and Ms. Kinzer created an IB-MYP horizontal planning guide connecting 8th grade social studies and English.
6. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Frye have been planning ways to get more students involved in music programs. The Music department encourages interested parents to join. Simply send an email to roger.jackson@dc.gov.

Deal teachers are the heart of our program. We are looking forward to an exciting 2008-09 school year with students and families!

See you soon!

Celebrations & News!

Congratulations to Ms. Kelly & Mr. Aguilera! During the summer they got married in the Dominican Republic!

Congratulations to Ms. Camille White! Ms. White is on maternity leave to welcome a new baby girl to her family in November!

Congratulations to the new staff members at Deal! We happily welcome several new staff members to Deal this year!

1. James Albright ~ IB Coordinator
2. Seth Brecher ~ Special Ed
3. Rui Ge ~ Chinese
4. Marcella Hovancsek ~ English
5. Harlan Kinzer ~ Social Studies
6. Adam Kirschenbaum ~ Social Studies
7. Jesse Koplowitz ~ Math
8. Rufus McDowell ~ English
9. Diedre Neal ~ Assistant Principal
10. Joanna Norelli ~ Math
11. Michelle Ortiz ~ Physical Education
12. Shana Sonick ~ Spanish

We are excited to have you with us!