Dearborn Public Schools Stout Middle School 18500 Oakwood Blvd. Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 827-4600



Summer Newsletter 2019

A message from Mr. Oke

Welcome back! We are just a few days away from the start of a new school year. Many of our staff members have been working throughout the summer to make sure we have an amazing school year, including a great start to the year.

When students enter the building on August 26th, they will notice several changes. In addition to a few new staff members, we have reorganized the building. Many teachers will be in different classrooms this year.

We have also made some changes in the office. We have a new assistant principal and a new school psychologist. Our social workers have moved to new offices, and the Restorative Center (which is often the first stop for a student when he or she needs to change their behavior) has been relocated to the counseling office. All of these changes were made to ensure that students have the best learning environment we can provide and that our systems within the school operate efficiently.

If you ever have any concerns, please contact your child's teachers directly and they will work with you to resolve any Issues. We have a wonderful staff at Stout and our staff members want every student to have a positive experience at school.

In addition to your child's teachers, we have several other staff members here to support students and parents. This includes the following staff members.

- Mohamad Sabra, Community Liaison
- Michael Tindall, Counselor
- Faizah Nasser and Leslie Adadow, Social Workers
- Rashid Baydoun, Social Responsibility Educator

While your child has the largest role in his or her success, parents play an important role in supporting their child. You can support your child in the following ways.

- Encourage your child to make their school work a priority. Make sure your child has a place to do their school work and a regular routine for completing it.
- Encourage your child to be a problem-solver and encourage your child to advocate for him or herself.
- Have regular discussions about school with your child.
- Follow your child's progress in all classes on the computer (or your cell phone) using Parent Connect.

Thank you for your support in the upcoming school year. We are looking forward to meeting students on August 26th!

Mr. Oke

First Day of School

Monday, August 26, 2019 is the first day of school for students. **The first day is a half day and students will be dismissed at 11:05 a.m.** At the beginning of the school day, students will report to homerooms based on their grade level and their last name. A list of homeroom assignments is included with this newsletter and will be posted on our webpage. Staff will be available to help direct students to the correct homeroom.

School Hours

The school day starts at 7:50 a.m. Students must be in their 1st period class no later than 8:00 a.m. or they will be marked tardy. On full school days, students are dismissed at 2:55 p.m. Students need to exit the building by 3:00 p.m. unless attending an after school activity.

The building opens at 7:30 a.m. for students wishing to eat breakfast. Prior to 7:50, students must be in the cafeteria or the auditorium. Please do not check your student out after 2:00 p.m. unless a doctor's note is presented to the office staff.

Schedule Pickup

On the first day of school, students will report to their homerooms to pick up their schedules. Homeroom assignments are included with this newsletter. As of this mailing, we are still working on students' schedules.

Please note, this school year, parents must update their students emergency forms, physical forms, code of conduct and concussion forms. All these forms must be filled out completely and signed. Please note that if your child is planning to participate in any athletic activity, they must have a completed sports physical on file. Sport physical forms are available in the office.

<u>6th Grade Health Appraisal Forms</u> (Physicals)

All 6th grade physicals must be turned into the school office no later than Friday, September 13th. Please note that students must have a Health Appraisal Form on file to participate in gym class.

Student Absences

If your child is going to be absent, Stout Middle School has a 24 hour attendance telephone number that is available. Our attendance telephone number is (313) 827-4601. Please call in your child's absence by 8:00 a.m.

Please make sure your child attends school every day for the entire school day. If students are late to class or leave early on a regular basis, important learning time is lost. Please make sure students are in school by 7:50 a.m. and try to avoid picking them up before 2:55 p.m.

Medication in School

Whenever possible, all medications should be given at home. If your child must take medications at school, please obtain a "Medical Authorization Form" from the school office. This also includes non-prescription drugs such as Ibuprofen, cold medicine, and even cough drops. Both the parent and the physician must sign this form.

All medication should be in the bottle/container that it was dispensed in from the pharmacy. By state law, we cannot accept any medications that are not in their proper containers.

Students may not have any prescription or non-prescription drug in their possession at school or on the bus.

Students' supply list

If you would like to buy school supplies for your child, please visit our website at stout.dearbornschools.org for the recommended supply list for each grade.

Student Lunches

Last year, Stout began participating in a school-wide free school breakfast and lunch program. Some parents may receive a survey about the program. Please help us to continue to offer this beneficial program by completing the survey if you receive it.

The cafeteria also offers several a-la-carte items for purchase that are not included in the free lunch program. Parents may put money on their child's account in advance by bringing cash to the kitchen.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Stout Middle School's expectation is that **cell phones should not be seen or heard during the school day**. We discourage students from bringing cell phones to school. Cell phones are often a major distraction for students. There are many studies showing that cell phones can have a negative impact on student achievement.

If a cell phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and held in the office until the end of the school day. Repeat offenses will result in further discipline and a parent having to pick up the cell phone from the office. The school and administration is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

Student Drop Off

When you drop off or pick up your child, PLEASE pull to the end of the circular drive or into the parking lot in order to alleviate traffic congestion which can create a dangerous situation on Oakwood. Do not block the front circular drive by double parking or standing. Do not pick up students at the south end of the building due to bus transfer.

Student Accident Insurance Application

The Dearborn Public School system does not insure students for accidental injuries during the school year. If you do not have your own medical insurance, the insurance coverage offered by First Agency, Inc., underwritten by Guarantee Trust Life Insurance Company, covers participants in middle school tackle football as well as other sports. All accidents that might occur during regular school hours are covered by this insurance. If you are interested, please contact our Business Services Office at (313) 827-3018.

Student Safety - Crossing Oakwood Blvd.

Students who walk to school or ride their bikes must cross Oakwood with the light at Hollywood. (Riders should walk their bikes across.) Pressing the walk button located on the pole increases the crossing time. Crossing without pressing the button reduces the crossing time by 10 seconds and makes it difficult for students to safely cross. Students are expected to cross when the signal indicates they can safely do so or when directed to cross by a crossing guard.

Driveway and Traffic Signs

The entrances and exit driveways at the main entrance of the school are one-way. You may enter at the south end of the circle drive and exit at the far north end of the parking lot. You can not access the circle drive through the middle entrance. This entrance is for accessing the parking lot only.

Flashing speed limit signs on Oakwood will flash to indicate a reduced speed of 25 miles per hour and 30 minutes before the start of school and again at 2:55 p.m. We appreciate your observance of these speed limits and traffic laws.

School Buses

The Transportation Department will mail home information about bus assignments and pick up times prior to the first day of school. Please note that **students are expected to ride their assigned bus** and to enter and exit their bus at their assigned stop.

When entering the bus, students are expected to form a single file line behind the curb. While riding the bus, students are expected to remain seated, demonstrate appropriate behavior, and follow all directions from their bus driver.

Bicycle Security

Students must use the bicycle racks near the main entrance of the school. It is highly recommended that bicycles be secured with a strong cable and combination lock of good quality to prevent theft.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please visit and subscribe to our school website at stout.dearbornschools.org. Our website has information about school activities, calendars, links to community events, and parent educational materials. It also includes links to teachers' blogs where you will find information about your child's academics and homework. To stay updated, please sign up to receive notification via email.

8th Grade Honors Assembly:

Please note that we do not have a promotion (or graduation) for our 8th grade students at the end of the year. We will have an Honor's Assembly in which we recognize our students who earn a G.P.A. of 3.00 and above and who participate in activities and clubs at our school. Please encourage your children to be high achievers and be involved in school activities.