



BENNETT INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

1125 Bennett School Road

Fort Collins, CO 80521

Phone: (970) 488-4750

Fax: (970) 488-4752

<http://www.psdschools.org/schools/bennett/>

Michael E. Schooler, Principal

July 20, 2009

Dear Parent(s) of Bennett Students,

Welcome back! We are hard at work preparing for yet another exciting school year at Bennett. We hope your summer has been relaxing and fun. We have a few more weeks before school starts, please take a few minutes to review these important dates. Don't forget our new school start and end times!

We encourage you to give us a call in the office or look on our school web page if you have any questions about what is going on during the school year.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW STAFF:

Mrs. Smith – All Day Kindergarten

Mrs. Shaner – 5th Grade

Ms. Rogers – Sp.Ed. Para

School Phone: 970-488-4750

School Web Page: <http://www.psdschools.org/schools/bennett/>

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS AUGUST 19, 2009

NEW START TIME:

Classes for 1st – 5th grade and all day kindergarten begin at 8:50. Students can enter the building at the first bell at 8:40. The tardy bell rings at 8:50. **Dismissal is at 3:28.** Morning Half-Day Kindergarten starts at 8:50 and dismisses at 1:20 p.m.

If you transport your student be sure they do not arrive before 8:40. There is NO student supervision before the 8:40 bell. For pick-up please help us keep everyone safe and follow the guidelines in the student handbook.

We ask you to call school each morning your child is not attending. Please use the absence line: 488-4751.



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

I WALK & RIDE SAFELY:

Students entering kindergarten this fall are encouraged to attend the free annual *I Walk & Ride Safely Program* sponsored by Poudre School District, the Fort Collins Police Department, and the Larimer County Sheriff's Department. Parents, kindergarteners, and first graders may attend.

Children will learn how to walk to school or ride a school bus safely. Instructions are given under actual traffic conditions, including crosswalks, signs, traffic signals, automobile traffic, and crossing guards.

Bennett's presentation is scheduled for Friday, August 14th at 8:30 a.m. Just show up at the school and look for the school bus!

The Safe Routes to School Program was designed to promote the safety and environmental conditions for students traveling to and from school. For a link go to our school web page, www.psdschools.org/schools/bennett.

BENNETT WELCOME POTLUCH FOR NEW FAMILIES – August 17 – 5:30:

This will be an informal gathering aimed to help new families at Bennett connect with new parents, become acquainted with our Bennett community and school building, and a chance to ask questions and learn more about all of the little things. Please bring: a side dish or dessert, silverware and drinks for your family. The main dish, water, paper products and seating will be provided.

OPEN HOUSE:

On August 18th from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Bennett welcomes all students and parents to visit classrooms, meet the staff, and drop off all those new school supplies. The Bennett Community Organization (BCO) helps organize this event and will provide ice cream for everyone. There will be information on how to sign up and volunteer with the BCO and/or at Bennett in general. Grade level representatives will also be present to meet parents for their respective grades. Information concerning our before and after school day care partner, BASE Camp will be available and you will be able to register at this time.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:

On September 3rd from 6:30 to 8:00 we have an opportunity for all parents to come to their child's classroom and hear from the teacher his/her expectations, homework policy, communication plan, how you can get help, etc.

If you have in-depth issues, concerns, etc. to talk to the teacher about please simply call the office and we will make an appointment for you and the teacher to talk about these matters without interruption.



FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

All medications, whether prescription or non-prescription (over-the-counter), require a separate PSD Authorization and Release form completed for each medication that is to be administered at school or at a school-sponsored activity each school year.

Prescription medications must be furnished in the original pharmacy labeled container with the student's name, name of medication, dosing instructions, date of prescription filled and expiration date, and name of prescribing health care provider who completed the PSD Authorization and Release for Administering Medicine. Non-prescription medications must be furnished in the original packaging container labeled by the pharmaceutical company or other commercial distributor. Student may not self-carry medication of any kind (including cough drops) unless authorized by health care provider, parent, and school nurse. In addition to the separate medication authorization form, a Health Care Action Plan is required for students with diabetes, asthma, insect/food allergies, seizure disorder, migraine headaches, or any other significant health condition for which medications may or may not be given at school or at a school-sponsored activity.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Students registering for the first time in PSD must present proof of immunizations or provide a signed exemption statement of religious or personal objection.

Call your healthcare provider, the Larimer County Health Department at (970) 498-6700, or visit www.co.larimer.co.us/health/chs for information. A walk-in children's immunization clinic is offered at the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive. Call for specific times.

STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Student Handbooks will be on your child's desk at the Open House. If you can not make that they will be sent home the first day of school. They will also be available on the school's web page.

2009-2010 PSD BUS SCHEDULES:

Routes are currently being developed for the 2009-2010 school year. Go to www.psdschools.org to access the bus schedule for your child after August 7th.

SPACE AVAILABLE BUSING CHANGES:

Due to budget constraints and increasing transportation costs, PSD routes are being adjusted to create more efficiency within each route. This means more students will be transported on fewer buses and/or fewer routes and PSD anticipates the following:

- PSD busses will be transporting more eligible students and therefore less "Space Available" busing may be available.
- Student attending a school outside of their neighborhood school (school choice) will only be transported on PSD busses if there is "Space Available." The exception is for Poudre High School's International Baccalaureate program, for which a fee-based pilot is planned.



- "Space Available" bus service forms will be accepted beginning August 1, 2009; parents will be notified in **OCTOBER** whether or not a seat is available for their student on the bus. Often during the first months of school, bus routes need to be adjusted to accommodate eligible students and to create efficiencies throughout district bus routes.
- "Space Available" bus service forms for the 2009-2010 school year will be available starting August 1, 2009, on the PSD Web site on the Transportation page, or may be obtained from school, or by calling 490-3155 to request a copy of the form.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Attached is a 2009-2010 school calendar. Please note the staff collaboration days on: September 21st, November 30th, February 15th, and April 19th. Students will not attend school on these days.

SUPPLY LIST:

Attached is a school supply list. Through the CSU School is Cool Program, approximately 1,500 new backpacks filled with school supplies are donated to schools and discreetly distributed to elementary and junior high school students in need. If you have need for this program to get the school supplies for your child then just call the office and we will work out the details.

STUDENT LUNCHES:

Student lunches are \$2.00 including milk, reduced lunches are \$.40. Additional milk is \$.45. Adult lunches are \$3.00. We encourage and welcome you to come and eat lunch with your child. See the student handbook for times and guidelines. Students order their lunches at 8:50 in the classrooms and pay for them as they go through the line at lunchtime. Students can pre-pay by the week. Lunch menus are posted under the Quick Links pull-down menu on the PSD web site at www.psdschools.org, in school newsletters, and printed weekly in the Fort Collins Coloradoan.

LUNCH PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING FAMILIES:

Applications for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program were mailed home to all heads of households in late July/August. Students participating in the program during the previous school year may be automatically enrolled in the program for the first 30 days of school. **Parents must submit a new family application each school year** and are required to complete only one application per household. The application may be returned to a school or the Food Service Office. Identity of students participating is kept strictly confidential.

Eligible families should complete and return the form even if they do not plan to participate in the lunch program. Students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program are also exempt from other fees and charges. A letter of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals will be sent to the parents/guardians of qualifying students. An information release form will be included with the eligibility



letter. Complete the information release form and return it to your school office.
Information: (970) 490-3557.

PARENT PORTAL:

PSD is excited to launch a new interactive "Parent Portal" on the PSD Web site at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. The Parent Portal will allow parents and guardians to view a quick and highly individualized snapshot of their student's specific information, including: schedule, grades, upcoming assignments, account balances and school information.

The Parent Portal's new interactive features are part of PSD's continuing work to improve communications with parents and guardians. **Parents and guardians should watch for a letter for each PSD enrolled student before school starts.** The letter will contain a unique activation code for their student and detailed instructions for accessing the Parent Portal.

UPDATE PHONE NUMBERS AND PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parents are encouraged to keep phone numbers, addresses, and emergency contact information updated throughout the school year. Watch for a student information form to come home with your child the first week of school. **Provide your email for emergency notifications and communication via email**, sign up at www.psdschools.org.

THURSDAY FOLDER:

During the year read your child's Thursday folder. You will find information from your child's teacher, the school newsletter, and much more.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email please go to the Poudre School District website, www.psdschools.org and sign up. On the left hand side of the page, click on eNewsletter Sign Up and follow the instruction from there.

REGISTER ONLINE TO VOLUNTEER:

PSD's online volunteer registration is available on the PSD website at www.psdschools.org. The system is easy to use for parents who want to volunteer at their child's school and for community members who want to be involved in education. Help shape the future – volunteer! Information: (970)490-3208

BCO NEWS:

Welcome or Welcome Back! BCO members are looking forward to a great year! Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 7 pm in the Media Center. Join us for desserts and some meet and greet time then stick around and learn a little bit about our plans for the year. Officers this year are: Deana Davalos (Secretary), Denise Ruybal (Treasurer), Donna Boudreau (Vice President), and Ann Randall (President). Please give any of us a call if you have questions about BCO and our activities. For questions specific to your children's grade levels, please connect with this years' grade



representatives: Kindergarten: Gretchen Gerding; First Grade: Louann DeCoursey; Second Grade: TBD; Third Grade: Jill Lowry; Fourth Grade: Stephanie Wiedeman; and Fifth Grade: Denise Ruybal. Please see enclosed contact information.

Even though October and November seem like a long ways off as we head into the end of summer, our Bronco Stampede (October 23rd) and Chili Supper, Craft Fair, and Book Fair (November 10th) will be here before you know it. Please consider volunteering to help out at these events and if you would like to reserve a table to showcase and sell your crafts, please contact Mary Jo at the Bennett office to reserve a spot (there is a small fee).

Caps 4 Cash – We earned \$450.00 for Bennett last year with the Caps 4 Cash program and saved 9000 plastic caps from ending up in the landfill. 267,179 caps in total were collected and saved from the landfill last school year by 64 schools. Please continue to collect your Morning Fresh Dairy caps over the summer. Counting your caps and returning them to school in labeled bags would be very helpful.

Bennett and BCO depend upon parent volunteers to make everything work for our children. Please contact any of the officers, grade reps, or our Volunteer in Public Schools (VIPS) Coordinator, Sharyl Haas if you are interested in volunteering this year. Thank you!

WE NEED A LITTLE HELP:

We are in need of a one hour para-professional to work in the lunch room as our cafeteria supervisor. It is hard to find a person who wants to work just one hour a day but if you think you might be interested please give Mary Jo a call.

Thanks and I hope to see you on August 19th.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Schooler
Principal, Bennett IB World School
mschoole@psdschools.org

