



Mail from the Middle

August 2008



Fall Calendar

REGISTRATION:

12 August: 8am-Noon
(Only students new to the Ashland School District)

13 August: 10am—6pm
All returning ASD students in grades 6-8.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

3 September: 8:45-11:30

Orientation day for ALL 6th graders and new 7th & 8th graders.

4 September: 8:45—3:00

First full day for all students.

*Note: On Fridays, school starts at 9:30am.

AMS OPEN HOUSE:

4 September: 6:30-7:30pm

PICTURE DAY:

18 September



AMS Fall Sports begin:

FOOTBALL: 7th/ 8th Boys

21 August, 3:30-5:30

VOLLEYBALL: 7th/8th Girls

4 September, 3:10-4:30

CROSS COUNTRY:

6-8th grade, boys & girls

4 September, 3:10—4:30

Office Personnel
482-1611

Principal
Mr. Steve Retzlaff

Assistant Principal
Mr. Doug Geygan

Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Jody Bradley

AMS Secretarial Staff
Pearl Baumgartner, Manager
Annette Dahlquist, Registrar
Debbie Maulsby, Attendance
Karin Pasche, Front Office

A Letter From The Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

I am very excited to have this opportunity to become the new Principal of Ashland Middle School! I have learned a great deal from the three years I have spent working with Dale and the AMS staff as the Assistant Principal. While I have large shoes to fill, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to support the AMS staff as they diligently work to provide your children with rich and diverse learning experiences. While I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many of you over the last few years, I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce myself to each of you.

This fall I will begin my 15th year working in public schools. I entered the teaching profession as a Teach For America Corps member and taught middle school language arts in the South Bronx for two years. After my placement ended I moved to San Francisco where I taught special education for one year and then became a language arts teacher again. Later I became a middle school counselor and eventually the Dean of Students. After receiving my MA in Education through the Principal Leadership Institute at UC Berkeley, I worked as an assistant principal in Alameda, California for two years before moving to Ashland with my wife and two children to become the Assistant Principal at AMS.

I am thrilled to be part of a community that so strongly and consistently values and prioritizes education and look forward to seeing you at our open house on September 4th.

Sincerely,

Steve Retzlaff
Principal, Ashland Middle School



Meet the new Assistant Principal—Mr. Doug Geygan

Dear Parents and Students,

I am excited about the upcoming year at Ashland Middle School. I have been teaching English and social studies for the past 11 years, 5 of those at Cascade Middle School in Bend, Oregon. Prior to my teaching career, I was a counselor in Denver, Colorado working with young people who were struggling to be successful in society. My family and I have settled into Ashland and are loving the community. Kelly, my wife, and I have an 18 month old son, Zane, and we are expecting a daughter in November. We are thrilled to be joining Ashland Middle School as well as the community of Ashland. I look forward to seeing you in the classrooms, halls, and around town.

Sincerely, Doug Geygan

Assistant Principal, Ashland Middle School




AMS Registration >

12 August: 8am– noon, Only for students new to the district

13 August: 10am– 6pm All ASD students in grades 6-8.

Why do I need to re-register each year?

- ⇒ To update all your personal information (address, phone #, immunizations, etc..)
- ⇒ To sign up for band/orchestra.
-  New musicians may need to make an appointment with band/orchestra teacher to pick an instrument and/or arrange for rental of a school instrument.
- ⇒ Pay school fees - or make arrangements in the office to make payments.
- ⇒ Sign-up for sports and get the clearance paperwork. Find out when practice starts.
- ⇒ Pick up your school supply list.
- ⇒ Sign-up for the bus and get the new schedule.
- ⇒ Apply for the free/reduced lunch program.
- ⇒ Parents— fill out new volunteer applications (necessary if you plan to drive on field-trips or volunteer on trips or in the school).
- ⇒ Purchase school insurance if needed
(insurance is required for Interscholastic Sports and some school fieldtrips)
- ⇒ Visit the miscellaneous forms table to obtain information about school related activities and more.

All students are assessed yearly charges at registration:

Required Fees:

\$21.00 Student Body Fee: This fee covers special assembly programs, letters, report cards, newsletters, student awards, student computer labs, social functions, calendar/handbook, clubs, student body card, etc.

\$10.00 Fine Arts Fee: The fine arts fee is collected to cover the expense of supplies needed in classes such as band, orchestra, art, and video production.

\$5.00 Mailing Fee: All students are assessed a yearly mailing fee. An additional \$5.00 fee applies for mailings to students with a second household. This fee is to help defray the rising costs in postal charges.

Optional:

\$15.00 Yearbook: The yearbook is optional, and must be purchased in advance in order to be assured a book at the end of the year. *All fees must be paid in full for the student to receive their yearbook at the end of the year.*

Additional fees that may apply during the year: Other charges may be assessed for replacement of lost or damaged textbooks, library books, student body card, change of lock for lockers, library fines, copy charges, fieldtrips, instrument rental, etc.

**All fees are subject to change*





Another school year is about to start and we would like to share with you some valuable information to get your year off to a good start



Student Drop-Off and Pick-up:

Sharing the same campus with Bellview, AMS and the John Muir schools will pose some serious congestion issues before and after school. If possible, please try to use the school bus, car pool, walk, ride bikes, skateboards or scooters to school (saves gas, the environment and provides exercise!).

If driving, please try to use the parking area that is the closest to your child's classroom. The upper parking lot is best for Bellview students and AMS 6th graders. The AMS main parking lot is best for AMS 7th/8th graders and John Muir students. This year the old bus ramp on Walker Avenue will not be available for parent vehicles, but will be used exclusively by buses for Bellview and John Muir school.

The newer bus ramp for AMS students is located behind the large gym and is not a good location to pick-up students. The bus area is closed to other traffic when buses are present (7:45-8:40am; 2:30-3:30pm). After 3:30pm, parents may park in the bus area to attend events.

Please use extreme caution this year with our shared campus as we have more students of varying ages arriving to and departing from school. Each schools starting and ending times are listed below:

Bellview: 8:15-2:45 **John Muir:** 8:15-2:45 **AMS:** 8:45-3:00



FOOD: Full stomachs produce higher achievement. Parents can deposit money in a meal account for their children to draw from. Without funds, students can charge up to \$5.50. When they are over their limit they will be provided with a cheese sandwich meal. Students may also qualify for free or reduced-price meals (see info below). The cafeteria crew hopes you will join them for breakfast and lunch in our new cafeteria. See student meal prices below:

⇒ Breakfast \$1.50 ⇒ Lunch \$2.50

BREAKFAST IS FREE THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF!

This is a great opportunity for everyone to experience the quality of the food program in the Ashland School District and enjoy the new AMS cafeteria.

Your children may be eligible for FREE or REDUCED-PRICE meals if:

- Your family receives government food stamps.
- Your family receives Aid for Needy Families with Children (ANFC)
- Your family income is at, or less than, the levels listed.
- Applications for *Free & Reduced Meals* are available at registration and at the school office. All applications are kept confidential.
- ASD encourages all families to please fill out the NSLP (National School Lunch Program) application. Even if you know you won't qualify or you do not plan to participate in school meals, the District may benefit in many programs with your voluntary information.

Income Eligibility Guidelines for the 2008-2009 School Year.

Reduced Price Meals:

Household Size	Annual Income	Month	Week
1.....	19,240	1,604	370
2.....	25,900	2,159	499
3.....	32,560	2,714	627
4.....	39,220	3,269	755
5.....	45,880	3,825	883
6.....	52,540	4,379	1,011
7.....	59,200	4,934	1,139
8.....	65,860	5,489	1,267
For each additional family member add:			
	6,660	555	129

Free Meals:

Household Size	Annual Income	Month	Week
1.....	13,520	1,127	260
2.....	18,200	1,517	350
3.....	22,880	1,907	440
4.....	27,560	2,297	530
5.....	32,240	2,687	620
6.....	36,920	3,077	710
7.....	41,600	3,467	800
8.....	46,280	3,857	890
For each additional family member add:			
	4,680	390	90

Source: USDA National School Lunch Program, effective dates July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009



Office Procedures:

AMS Office Hours: 8:00am to 4:00pm

Messages & Deliveries: It's very difficult to get messages or deliveries to students (not to mention a disruption of class time). If your student has forgotten an item at home and needs you to deliver it to school, please advise them to pick up their deliveries from the office. You may leave items at either the South Office, Attendance Office or Main Office, just communicate to your student where they should pick it up (choose the closest location to their classroom). Messages are also very difficult to deliver in a timely fashion, so please work with your child to ensure good communication about appointments and after school plans and save celebrations for after school. Another option is to leave a message on your child's cell phone for them to check at the end of the day. Students are also able to use the student phones available at any of our offices or they may be permitted to use their teacher's phone. If there is a family emergency, please call the school office.

Attendance Procedures: Please call the Attendance Office (482-1611, ext. 104) if your student will be late, leaving early or absent for the day. Also, if your child is leaving campus during school hours or arriving late, they must sign-in or out at either the Attendance Office or South Office.

Visiting During the Day: When visiting AMS, please check in at the South or Main office. Each visitor will be required to have a visitor's pass.

Power School: Power School allows you to review your child's academic progress and attendance online. Via mail, you will receive your password and instructions on how to access your child's grades by October 1st.

Contacting staff: 482-1611

If you know the extension of the person you are trying to reach, enter that number at the computer greeting. You can also enter "4" to get the staff directory. If you wish to bypass the electronic answering, press "0."

Finally, you can email any staff member using the following address format:

firstname.lastname@ashland.k12.or.us (karin.pasche@ashland.k12.or.us). Below are the staff extensions you will most commonly need:



6th Grade Teachers

Andy Burt	188
Terry Karlin	170
Bonnie McCracken	169
Dick Streng	185
Gary McNeil	189
Therese VanReenen	186

Amigos Nuevos

Bob Julian	201
Jennifer Gonzalez	202
Libre Cory	204
Larry Hansen	205
Eric Sandrock	206

Amistad

Kristi Healy	211
Grace Gonzales	212
Julie Inada	214
Beth Oehler	215
Dianna Warner	216

Rio Del Fuego

Lynn Kunstman	221
Karoli Cadarette	222
Karl Pryor	224
Jennifer Losinski	225
Kathy Yeoman	226

PCAT Teachers

Band-Jenifer Carstensen	210
Orchestra-Dwayne Johnson	219
Gen. Music- Holly Johnson	218
Art- Robert Kuhn	217
WAMS- Rick Shaw	160

PCATs cont..

PE-Julie Ponder	136
PE- Karl Carstensen	137
PE- James Hageman	138
Health	
Jamie Haden and James Hageman	162

Counseling

Jody Bradley	106
Abdi Guled	174
Nurse-Belinda Brown	105
Nurse-Bill Cross	144

Office Staff

Karin Pasche	100
Annette Dahlquist	102
Pearl Baumgartner	103
Debbie Maulsby	104
Doug Geygan	107
Steve Retzlaff	109

AMS Dress Code: To maintain a positive atmosphere for learning, we ask that students wear appropriate school clothing—underwear and midribs should be covered; slogans or pictures should not make reference to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sex or be demeaning to any person or group. Additionally, we ask that sweatshirt hoods be down.



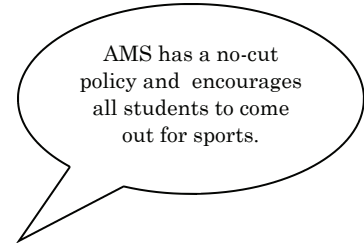
Cell phones: During the day, cell phones must be kept turned off and kept in their locker. Students may use cell phones after school when outside the building.



AMS Interscholastic Sports

Summer is coming to an end and its time to start thinking about the AMS Interscholastic Sports. The following sports are available as follows:

- Fall:** Girls Volleyball (7th & 8th graders)
Boys Football (7th & 8th graders)
Cross Country (6th, 7th & 8th graders)
- Winter:** Girls & Boys Basketball (7th & 8th graders)
Wrestling (6th, 7th, & 8th boys)
- Spring:** Track (6th, 7th & 8th graders)



In order to participate all athletes must have a sports physical, by a physician or a nurse practitioner, every 2 years. A health update form must be completed during the years they don't need the physical. Additionally, all parents and athletes must sign the annual Sports Participation Contract (all forms available at registration).

FALL SPORTS DAILY PRACTICE SCHEDULE:

- Football: Aug. 21-29 & Sep. 2-3, from 3:30-5:30 *Once school begins, practice is daily after school until 5:30.
- Volleyball: Starts September 4th *Practice is every day after school until 4:45pm.
- Cross Country: Starts September 4th *Practice is every day after school until 4:45pm.

SPORTS PHYSICALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A MINIMAL FEE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- \$25.00 Ashland Family Practice (established patients) 482-2716
- \$25.00 Steve Joslin, Talent Clinic 535-9108
- \$36.00 Stone Medical, Ashland 488-1116

*Please check with your doctor to see if they offer an established patient price.



Nurse's Notes

Dear Parents,

Thank you for being so diligent in providing the necessary health information at registration. When this information is promptly provided it helps ensure your child's health needs are met and their safety is maintained in the school setting.

Just a reminder that all medications (prescription and nonprescription) must be brought to the nurse's office in the original container, with written instructions and a parent signature. Self-medication is not allowed in grades K-8, except for asthma inhalers and epi-pens which must still be checked in through the nurse's office.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss your child's health needs, please call our school nurse.

Belinda Brown RN, 482-1611, Ext. 105

AMS EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

At AMS we offer a variety of clubs throughout the school year for students in all grades to join. Please listen to the morning announcements for details about when clubs are starting. See the list below for the various clubs available:



- Chess Club
- WAMS Club
- Tennis Club
- Drama
- Mathcounts
- Brain Bowl
- Scavenger Hunt
- OSF Theatre Study Group
- Art Club
- Leadership
- Cooking Club
- Roots & Shoots
- Marimba Club
- Pentagames
- Science Bowl

AMS would like to thank the community for supporting the Youth Academics and Activity Levy that makes it possible for us to have so many clubs to offer.

ASF Emergency insert

Asbestos letter





Mail from the Middle

Ashland Middle School
100 Walker Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520

NON-PROFIT
ORG
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Ashland, OR

Important BACK—TO—SCHOOL issue!

We're on the Web!
www.ashland.k12.or.us

Attention Parents of 7th Graders

URGENT IMMUNIZATION REMINDER

Oregon law has added requirements for immunizations for school year 2008-2009. Your 7th grade child should have one additional vaccine by January 2009. An appropriate medical or religious exemption is also acceptable. Please check your child's records to be sure that he/she has the following:

Tdap Vaccine – 1 dose

Tdap offers adolescents and adults protection against three serious diseases: Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (whooping cough). In 2004, Pertussis in Oregon reached the highest number since the 1950s with 625 cases; this was two times the national average.

If your child does not have the Tdap shot, contact your child's doctor or call the Jackson County Health Department to make an appointment. It is important to get an early start on updating your child's immunizations this fall. Please give all updated immunization information to your school prior to winter vacation or as soon as your child receives Tdap.

If you're under 65 years old, consider talking with your doctor or pharmacist about getting a dose of Tdap for yourself.

Please call Belinda Brown, RN at 482-1611 Ext.105 at AMS Student Health Services if you have any questions.

(Please return this form to school)

Student's Name: _____

Student's Date of Birth: _____

Tdap dose 1 date (given at or after 10 years of age): _____
(Tdap is given to adolescents and adults 10-64 years old. It is different from DTap, which is given to children younger than 7 years)

Print parent's name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____