

The Smyser Sentinel

Main & Annex Buildings- 4310 N. Melvina
Primary Center- 6200 W. Patterson
"An O'Hare Network School"

Updates on the CPS Longer School Day for 2012-13

To help boost student achievement across the District, our schools need to put an end to the shortest day and year in the nation. Principals, teachers and especially students are being put at a disadvantage by not having enough instructional time to compete with their peers.

Beginning next school year, Chicago Public Schools will expand the school day and year, including 90 additional minutes of instructional time a day at elementary schools to boost student achievement and ensure that our students graduate college and career ready. Adding 90 minutes to each school day provides our students with a 7.5 hour school day, which is on par with the national average for the number of minutes spent in the classroom.

A key component of the new longer school day will be instruction that incorporates the new Common Core State Standards—these standards define what students should know and be able to do at every grade level in order to graduate high school ready for college and career. The longer day will also provide more time for teachers to work collaboratively in groups to meet individual student needs and share effective practices in order to drive student achievement.

The longer school day in elementary schools all across the Chicago Public Schools will:

- Provide students with 450 bell-to-bell minutes and 390 instructional minutes.
- Allow students to have time for both recess and lunch (45 minutes total) each day so that they can recharge.
- Increase teacher time for lunch and planning, with a 45-minute lunch and a 60-minute prep period per day.

While the above broad priorities will be consistent across elementary schools, how the longer day looks at each respective school will vary depending on student needs. The students at our schools have their own unique needs, and therefore, the input of our school community is critical as we construct the longer day to allow individual schools to tailor it for their students' needs.

A year-long planning process is underway to ensure schools are prepared to plan and implement their redesigned school day. CPS is requesting that all members of

the school community be engaged in the planning process and will be doing so at three different points during the current school year.

S m y s e r School's engagement

session for parents and community members will be in the form of a meeting centered on the longer school day and maximizing instructional time within the new school day. Please join us at the school on January 10, 2012 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM for this meeting.

Our students and teachers deserve to have the time, tools, and support needed to move student achievement forward. Your input during the planning process will help to transform the school day in order to meet student needs. We look forward to discussing the upcoming redesigned school day and year with you and hearing your feedback.

Smyser Accelerated School

Chicago, IL 60634

773-534-3711

773-534-8350

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January 2012

www.smyser.org

Mr. Travlos, Principal

Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal

Ms. Portera, Assistant Principal

Longer School Day Forum

Date: Tuesday, January 10th

Site: Smyser Main Building

Address: 4310 N. Melvina

Location: Auditorium

Time: 6 PM

Stay Connected- Join the Smyser Email List

Mr. Travlos is looking to update Smyser's email distribution list for parents, guardians, and friends. If interested, please submit your name and email address to jtravlos@cps.edu. Shortly after, you'll start receiving Smyser Weekly Updates via surveymonkey.com.



Smyser Music and Fine Arts Department

Once again our Smyser Music and Fine Arts department put on four spectacular holiday shows for parents, students, faculty, and guests on December 13th, 14th, 15th, and 23rd. Instrumental, Band, Choir, and Show Choir students performed traditional and authentic music and dance numbers to a packed auditorium. We are proud of our wonderful students and staff for their before and after school dedication and hard work. Let's continue to support our teachers and students as they rehearse before, during, and after school.

Special Thanks to our Program Sponsors:

Band and Instrumental Programs : Mr. Salyers

Choir and Show Choir Programs: Mr. Dupree & Ms. O'Toole
Smyser Music Booster Club

Improved Smyser Traffic Pattern

Please be advised that beginning Monday, January 9th strict enforcement of the no parking zones will begin. Specifically, the section from the alley to the driveway entrance in front of Smyser School will be enforced. This is being done to increase student safety. Cones will be placed for easy identification and your cooperation is requested. We are working with the Chicago Police Department to try and insure the safety of our children during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Help Keep our Children Safe

Your assistance is needed in helping keep our children safe. As you are aware Melvina Avenue is One-Way during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Due to heavy traffic congestion, I encourage you to walk your children to and from school. If unable to do so, I ask that you adhere to the following:

- Drive slowly.
- Do not double park. The Chicago Police Department will be ticketing automobiles.
- Do not block circular drive. No Parking in the circular drive. Circular drive will be blocked off for afternoon dismissal.
- Yield to school buses.
- Follow school personnel directives.
- Adhere to the posted One-Way and turning traffic signs.
- Yield to pedestrians and be courteous to other drivers.
- Do not block private driveways or public walkways.
- Refrain from using obscene and immoral gestures and language.
- Cars are not to pull into the parking lot to drop-off/pick-up children.
- There is lots of space south on Melvina and on Berteau to park.

It is everyone's responsibility to keep our children safe and to be positive role models. Please do your part and help others to do the same. Remember, **NO DOUBLE PARKING ON STREET OR DRIVEWAY.**

Reflections on a Wonderful 2011

- Smyser Expansion with the opening of the Primary Center.
- CPS O'Hare Network alignment.
- CPS Level 1 CPS accountability rating.
- ISAT and MAP increases.
- Donors Choose Grant Recipients.
- Expanded Sports Offering for Students.
- Expanded After-School Programming: After School All-Stars Elite and Supplemental Educational Services.
- Lawyers in the Classroom Program.
- Extended kindergarten offerings.
- 3rd shift pre-kindergarten.
- Summer enrichment programs
- Enhanced Smyser website.
- Expanded technology and new computers.
- Infrastructure upgrades to our school.
- Smyser Gardening/Recycling Club.
- Smyser Spirit Days
- Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and Student of the Month recipients.
- Student Council announcements and initiatives.
- Our Music and Fine Arts programs.
- LSC, PTO, and Music Boosters special events, fundraisers, and workshops.
- Wonderful parents, students, faculty, and staff.
- And much, much, more!

Thank Your Smyser PTO

Thank your to our Smyser PTO for sponsoring our Santa's Workshop and visit from Santa & Mrs. Clause. The efforts of the following volunteers are greatly appreciated:

Mavla Sabangic
Stacy Scalzo
Sharon Rouette
Simone Adems
Analy Salvatierra
Gabriela Salgado
Cindy Maysonet
Jose Palacios
Robin Plucinski
Herb Plucinski

Maria Sanabria
Sharon Keels
Tia Koso
Esther Richko
Lissa Reyes
Cindy Kieras
Bridget Herman
Wesley Hodgen
Cindy Hodgen
James Riley
Maureen Luczak
Carol Moynihan & family.
Please, excuse any errors or omissions.



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
← Winter Vacation →						
8	9 Classes Resume.	10 Longer School informational presentation at 6 PM.	11 OLCE Compliance Visit. PPLC Meeting.	12	13 Network Science Fair. SCC Pizza Sale. SILT meeting.	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Holiday.	17	18 Music Boosters, LSC, PTO meetings.	19	20 Semester 2 \$50 payment due. No Pre-K classes.	21
22	23	24	25	26 Cluster C Meeting.	27 Professional Development Day- No School for Students.	28
29	30	31	1 Report Card Distribution Day.			

CPS ACCESS Testing

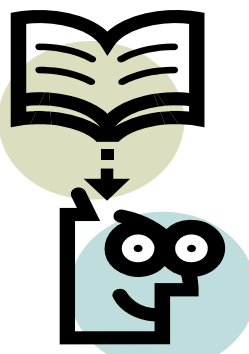
Semester 1 Box Tops/Juice Pouches/Campbell Soup Labels Classroom Winners

Final Semester 1 Box Tops/Juice Pouches/Campbell Soup Labels Top 10

Winners:

- Room 300: 1428
- Room 207: 1329
- Room 103: 1060
- Room 410: 1030
- Room 102PC1: 679
- Room 208: 650
- Room 405: 612
- Room 104: 478
- Room 302: 445
- Room 214: 437

Special Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Lambert Ms. Showalter The Students of 207



Save Time by Pre-Paying for Lunches Today!

In an effort to expedite meal service and increase instructional time, we are able to accept payment for meals in advance. Students are to drop-off payments to Ms. Ticarat, Lunchroom Manager or designee from 8:30-9:15 AM outside of the cafeteria. Teachers no longer accept money in the morning. Also, pre-payment will be accepted in cash only. You are encouraged to pay for at least 10 meals at a time. This is 2 weeks worth of meals. The prices for the 2011-12 school year are as follows:

- Full price student lunch \$2.25

- Reduced priced lunch is \$0.40
- Milk only is \$0.35

Please enclose payment for your students meal in a re-sealable baggie or envelope with the following information included:

- Student name; homeroom; amount enclosed; meal (lunch); date range of meals.

If your student decides not to eat a school meal for which you have already made payment, a credit will carry to the next unpaid service day. If you have any questions, please contact our Lunchroom Manager or the Main Office.