
The Smyser Sentinel

An ISBE Honor Roll/Spotlight School
An Autonomous Management Performance School

Good Study Habits Begin At Home

At times, it can seem like your child's homework is endless and with all those other things to get done, helping your child complete this homework can seem like an impossible task. However, completing homework is an important part of your child's education; it not only helps children practice what they are learning in the classroom, but it also encourages self-discipline and a sense of responsibility.

- **Take an interest in your child's homework.** The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a statement regarding a child's increased success in school when parents take an active interest in homework. Your interest sends the message that not only is education important to you, but also that your child's activities in general are important to you, and you are there to support your child.
- **How much is too much?** According to the U.S. Department of Education, children in first through third grade should have a minimum of about 20 minutes of homework each school day. The recommendation for children in fourth through sixth grades is a minimum of 40 minutes a school day, and for children in seventh through ninth grades the recommendation is up to 2 hours per school day. These are just recommendations and the amount of homework your child will have may vary greatly depending on the school and your child's teacher(s). The best way to know how much homework to expect is to speak with your child's teacher.
- **Get to know your child's teacher.** Attend parent-teacher conferences and ask the teacher about the homework policy and what your role should be in helping with your child's homework as this may vary from teacher to teacher. Building this relationship with the teacher initially will be helpful if you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year about your child's homework situation.
- **Schedule in homework time.** Although it can be diffi-

cult with your own and your child's busy schedules, make sure homework time is part of your child's daily routine. Try and find a regular study time each day that works the best for your child.

- By doing this, you are modeling good time management as well as sending the message that education is important.
- **Find a homework-friendly area at home.** This may differ depending on the age of your child or what type of homework he is doing. Ideally, this should be a relatively quiet place with plenty of light. In addition, help your child gather the necessary tools to complete his homework before he begins.
 - **Be available.** How much you help your child with homework will depend on your child's age, her teacher, and the assignment. You do not need to hover over your child as she completes her homework and this may even be a distraction for some children; however, assuring her that you are there if she needs you will let her know that you are there to support her.
 - **Encourage learning.** Even when your child has free time, he can learn from his activities. Reading for pleasure, participating in an after school activity, visiting a museum, helping you with cooking or errands, or even watching an educational program on television are all things that help your child to learn outside the classroom and develop hobbies and interests.

Washington D. Smyser
4310 N. Melvina
534-3711
www.smyser.org

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© Mr. Travlos, Principal

© Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal

© Mr. Kosiek, LSC President



Mr. Travlos

Smyser Music and Fine Arts Department

Once again our Smyser Music and Fine Arts department put on three spectacular holiday shows for parents, students, faculty, and guests on December 9th, 10th, and 11th. 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 Instrument Programs : Mr. Salyers
Choir and Show Choir Programs: Mr. Dupree
Smyser Music Booster Club

Parent Portal to IMPACT Gradebook

During Semester 2, Smyser parents/guardians are encouraged to go online and access their student's grade information. User accounts have been created and training is being held on how to use the IMPACT Parent Portal. The CPS Parent Portal serves as wonderful tool for parents to monitor homework assignments, and academic progress. Your patience is requested as this new tool is being improved each year.

Please remember that the grades that you will see posted on the Parent Portal site might not include all assignments or tests that have been completed by your child. As teachers complete the grading of assignments and tests in their online grade book, it updates information displayed on the portal. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact the teacher. Also, pages on the Web site may contain technical inaccuracies, outdated information, and typographical errors which you must discuss with your student's teacher when identified.

Here are some of the key features of IMPACT Gradebook's Parent Portal:

- ✓ Parents can use the Parent Portal to view grades and attendance online.
- ✓ Parents can view course syllabi, assignments, class descriptions, and several kinds of notes and comments from teachers.
- ✓ Parents can receive alerts regarding students' grades and attendance.
- ✓ Parents can access all of their students' profiles (regardless of school) with a single account.
- ✓ The link can be found on the Smyser website.
- ✓ Remember, prior to use you must have your child's unique CPS Identification and PIN numbers.

Reflections on a Wonderful 2009

- AMPS- Autonomous Management Performance School.
- MAP Testing
- Study Island
- ISBE Spotlight/Honor Roll Designation.
- Expanded Sports Offering for Students.
- Burnham Plan Centennial Project.
- Mayor Daley's Book Club.
- DRIVE Award Finalist.
- Expanded After-School Programming through the After School All-Stars Elite.
- Lawyers in the Classroom Program.
- Extended kindergarten offerings.
- 3rd shift pre-kindergarten.
- Summer enrichment programs for grades K, 1, and 2.
- Enhanced Smyser website.
- LSC and PTO special events, fundraisers, and workshops.
- Numerous curriculum enhancements and adoptions.
- BDHS PD Cohort.
- Expanded technology and new computers in the computer lab/classrooms.
- Universal Breakfast
- Smyser Gardening/Recycling Club.
- Smyser Spirit Days
- New desks and chairs compliments of the Smyser PTO.
- Classroom reorganizing to support smaller class sizes.
- Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and Student of the Month recipients.
- Wonderful parents, students, faculty, and staff.
- Our Music and Fine Arts programs.
- And much, much, more!

Smyser PTO Updates

The Smyser PTO would like to thank all the parent volunteers who assisted with December's Santa's Workshop. The event was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by our children. It was wonderful to see so many moms and dads coming out to support our school.

Parents are encouraged to sign-up for the Smyser PTO email list. It can be accessed via the school website. Just click on the link and send us an email.

Remember to place your monthly Market Day orders now. The next pick-up date is January 10th. In an effort to boost sales, February and March pick-up dates are scheduled for weekdays immediately after school. Orders can be easily placed by visiting www.marketday.com.

Smyser School Uniform Policy- Dress for Success

Appropriate school dress promotes a positive school climate. Dress and grooming should not disrupt the teaching or learning process. Parents are to make sure that their child complies with this policy. Detentions will be given to students who do not comply with these uniform dress code policy requirements:

1. Pants/Skirts must be dark navy blue or black. Dark gray or charcoal colors are not acceptable.
2. No jeans/denim or sweat pants. Pants/Skirts that are "jean look-alikes" are not acceptable. Pants must be belted at the waist. Clothing should not be too loose or too tight.
3. Shirts/Blouses must be light blue (not baby blue) or white and have a collar. Polo shirts are acceptable. No navy or royal blue. All shirts must have a collar.
4. Types of shoes are left to the discretion of parents and children. For safety and security reasons, students are strongly discouraged from wearing high heels, sandals or open toe shoes.
5. Sweaters and solid colored sweatshirts must be red, white, navy or black. No logos on any sweatshirt except the Smyser logo. Hooded sweatshirts are not allowed.
6. From May 15 through September 30, students will have the option of wearing knee length dark blue or black shorts. Jean/denim shorts are not acceptable. Shorts should not be loose or tight.
7. All clothing must be free of printing, except for the Smyser School logo.
8. Uniforms should be worn to field trips as you are representing the school.
9. School gym uniforms should be worn on gym days only and is acceptable on that day.

Our next Smyser Spirit Day is scheduled for Thursday, January 28nd.

Chicago Public School 2010 LSC Elections

Local School Councils are made up of the principal, teachers, parents and community members. Elementary school LSCs consist of 11 voting members:

- 1 - Principal
- 6 - Parent Representatives
- 2 - Community Representatives
- 2 - Teacher Representatives

LSC Elections

LSC Election Nomination forms are available on-line via the CPS/Smyser website or by visiting the school. Elections are held on the second semester Report Card Pick-Up Day in April of every even-numbered year. Parents and Community Representatives are elected, while Teacher Representatives are appointed by the Board of Education. A non-binding advisory poll of faculty and staff is also held on the second semester Report Card Pick-Up Day in April of every even-numbered year to determine the preferences of faculty and staff regarding the appointment of teachers to the LSC. The results are sent to the Board, which will appoint two teacher representatives to each LSC.

Term of Office

Parent, community, and teacher representatives serve a two-year term beginning July 1 after each election and ending June 30, two years later. Student representatives serve a one-year term beginning July 1 and ending June 30 the following year.

Candidate Nomination Form

Important Note: This form and its accompanying documents must be submitted to the office of the principal (or designee) of the school in which the candidate is running no later than **3:00 p.m., March 11, 2010.**

January 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Wishing You a Wonderful 2010!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Classes Re- sume.	5	6	7 Boys 7/8 BB vs. Sauganash @ 4 PM. Girls 7/8 BB @ Portage Park 5 PM.	8 No Prek classes. PTO Movie Night.	9 Market Day Pick- Up.
10	11 ACCESS and DIBELS assessments begin.	12 Girls 7/8 BB vs. Edge- brook @ 4 PM. Student Council Pizza Sale.	13	14 Girls 5/6 BB vs. Garvey @ 4 PM. Boys 5/6 BB vs Garvey @ 5 PM. Boys 7/8 BB @ Onahan 5 PM.	15 Area 1 Sci- ence Fair @ NEIU.	16
	CPS Writing Assessment Grades 3-8 →					
17	18 NO SCHOOL.	19 Girls 5/6 BB @ Canty 4 PM. Boys 5/6 BB @ Canty 5 PM.	20 LSC Meet- ing @ 6:15 PM. PTO Meeting @ 7:15 PM.	21 Boys 7/8 BB vs. Edison Park @ PM.	22	23 Girls 7/8 BB @ Onahan 4:15 PM- Brooks Park.
24	25 Boys 7/8 BB @ Edison Park 5 PM.	26 Girls 5/6 BB vs. Nor- wood Park @ 4pm. Boys 5/6 BB vs Norwood	27	28 Spirit Day. Girls 7/8 BB vs. Portage Park @ 4 PM. PTO Movie Night.	29 End of 2nd Quarter. No School. NCLB Nutrition Workshop.	30
31						