

The Smyser Sentinel

An ISBE Honor Roll/Spotlight School

An Autonomous Management Performance School

Non-Attendance is Not an Option

Attendance throughout the school year is a key component of academic success. Attendance enables academic improvement and enhancement. Each school day offers an opportunity for students to make academic progress and to interact with teachers and classmates. Frequent absences can cause students to fall behind in their studies, and miss out on valuable opportunities to connect with teachers and classmates.

It is important that **all students are in school every day**. The CPS Attendance and Truancy unit encourages students and parents to adhere to its motto: *Non-Attendance is Not an Option (N.A.N.O)*. "Attendance is not an option, it is a necessity for students to succeed in today's society," said James Deanes, Director of the Attendance and Truancy unit at CPS. He added that parents are role models in their child's life, which is why their commitment to ensuring their child maintains a strong attendance record is extremely important.

Parents are reminded to closely monitor their child's school attendance. Remember that absences can be excused for the following reasons: Student illness; Family emergency; Observation of a religious holiday; Death in the immediate family; Circumstances related to a student's health or safety. Any other absence is an unexcused, truant absence. Also remember that every absence, whether excused or unexcused, counts on a student's attendance record.

Recognizing the strong correlation between attendance and academic achievement, CPS rewards students who have excellent attendance records. Each spring, CPS sponsors a citywide perfect attendance banquet, which honors 8th and 12th grade graduates who have had four to 12 consecutive years of perfect attendance. In recent years, 8th grade graduates with eight years of perfect attendance and high school graduates with 12 years of perfect attendance have been recognized for their achievements with rewards (such as laptop computers). Also, Smyser has developed a local attendance award program to recognize and reward students who excel at attending school.

There is no question that attendance has a positive impact on the academic performance of students. If you have any questions regarding school attendance, please contact the [CPS Attendance and Truancy unit](#) at (773) 553-2180.

Smyser Accelerated School

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www.smyser.org

Mr. Travlos, Principal

Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal

Mr. Kosiek, LSC President

Mrs. Kosiek, PTO President

Study Island- Get Started Now!

Grades 2-8 Reading and Math

All Students Have Been Assigned a Unique Username and Password

Contact Your Child's Teacher or the Main Office for More Information

Our school has purchased a subscription to a research-based standards mastery program called Study Island. During our subscription, your child can access Study Island free of charge anywhere that Internet access is available! Study Island has site-wide security features in place to provide greater peace of mind. We are excited about the benefits this program can bring to our students, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Please feel free to contact Study Island at 800-419-3191 or support@studyisland.com if you have any questions.

Study Island is completely Web-based, which allows students to access the program from any computer with an Internet connection and a standard Web browser. Study session results are automatically recorded for teacher review, including results from sessions completed outside of school. The program is divided into sections based on subject (math, reading, etc.). Each section is made up of 15 to 30 topics, with each topic containing about 20 to 30 questions. Topics are accompanied by a lesson, which contains a brief overview of the material covered in that topic.

Wishing You a Wonderful and Peaceful Thanksgiving Holiday!

After School Programming

Smyser's After School All Stars programming has begun. Teachers are implementing dynamic learning and social experiences. Activities are an extension of the school day and excellent student attendance and behavior are mandatory. Students are required to report on their designated days and times. Parents are responsible for pick-up and after school arrangements especially if siblings are on different schedules. Questions can be directed to Ms. Erzrumly between 2:45 and 4:00 PM.

School Spirit Days

For 2009-10 school year the Smyser LSC and PTO will be instituting school spirit days. On designated days students and faculty/staff can wear their favorite Smyser gear with blue jeans. Students choosing not to participate are to wear their school uniforms. Dates are as follows:

- *Thursday, October 22nd
- *Thursday, November 5th
- *Wednesday November 25th
- *Friday, December 18th
- *Thursday, January 28th
- *Wednesday, February 10th
- *Friday, March 26th
- *Thursday, April 8th
- *The week of June 14th.

\$50 Workbook Fee

Children in grades K-8 are required to pay a \$50 work book fee. The money is used to purchase consumable materials in language arts, math, social studies and science. Workbooks are the sole possession of the child. Information regarding payment has been sent home. Please submit your child's payment as soon as possible. Our funding has been reduced and this fee is necessary for us to continue to provide our children with high quality educational services and materials.

Support Our Wonderful PTO

This year we hope to have 100% of our faculty and families join the Smyser Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). This hard working group composed of parents, teachers, and the principal is all about working together to provide the BEST educational environment for our children and to promote open communication between parents, teachers, and administration. Join our team and help us make a difference! PTO membership dues are \$3.00 minimum per family (other monetary donations are always welcome).

In October our Smyser PTO sponsored many events: Movie Night, Halloween Monster Bash; Pumpkin Carving Contest; and Smyser Spirit Day gear. Your support and dedication are remarkable. Your hard work and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. You're the best!

Thank You Smyser Principal for a Day

Principal for a Day (PFAD) brings business and civic leaders into the Chicago Public Schools to serve as principal for one day each fall. This year's PFAD 2009 took place on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. We are proud to have had Tony Brook from the Ansley Consulting Group and a former U.S. Olympian visit us. Our principal for a day addressed the faculty, visited classrooms, read stories, participated in classroom projects, and much more. We thank him for his inspirational message and support. Mayor Richard M. Daley brought PFAD to Chicago in 1998, and since then thousands of business and civic leaders have broadened their understanding of the accomplishments of our students, teachers and principals, and the challenges they face. These leaders, inspired by the experience, have launched or renewed their commitment to CPS by providing volunteers. The day concludes with a luncheon hosted by the Mayor, Chicago Board of Education President Michael Scott and Chicago Public Schools CEO Ron Huberman.

Mandatory Graduation Fee Due Friday, December 1st

Mandatory Fees Total- \$45

The school year is well underway and our eighth grade students are working hard preparing for graduation and high school. Questions regarding high school should be directed to our counselor, Mrs. Berry.

- Cap, Gown & Tassel w/ Mini-tassel Key Ring- \$30
 - Graduation Ribbons, Diploma Cover and Autograph Book- \$15
- Payments are to be submitted in cash, cashier's check, or money order made out to Smyser School. Kindly, place money in a sealed envelop with your child's name and room number noted on the front. The fee will only be collected on the designated day. In the event your child does not meet 8th grade promotion criteria, purchased items will still be provided. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher.

REPORT CARD PICK-UP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

12-3 PM & 4-6 PM

PARENT/GUARDIAN

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

Parents and guardians are invited to visit our wonderful school and meet our superior staff. Report Card Pick-Up is a great way to review your child's progress and support classroom instruction. Also, the office will be collecting any outstanding workbook fees. This year, I would like 100% for our parents to participate.

Congratulations Ms. Ledezma Smyser Drive Finalist

The Chicago Public Schools honored 24 teachers with DRIVE awards Thursday, October 15th. The DRIVE (Delivering Results through Innovative and Visionary Education) Award recognizes one teacher in each of the CPS 24 geographic areas.

"We've seen tremendous change in the district in recent years and that's due almost entirely to the efforts of our teachers," said Ron Huberman Chief Executive Officer of the CPS. "The great initiatives, programs and plans are all executed in the classrooms and in the schools by these amazing individuals."

The 265 nominees, their guests, principals and area instructional officers crowded the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton for the "Oscars-like" ceremony, complete with a red carpet reception and dinner with Huberman and Chief Education Officer Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins. The winners each received \$2,500, a \$1,000 stipend for their schools, and membership on the Teacher Leadership Advisory Council. This council creates a direct line of communication between the classroom and the CEO's office, meeting with Duncan four times a year.

The DRIVE Awards are part of the Chicago Teacher Initiative; its goals include improving employee recognition and establishing timely and relevant communication between the CPS central office and teachers. "We're fortunate here in Chicago to have so many exemplary teachers working in our public schools." Eason-Watkins said. "These are teachers who day in and day out see the challenges of urban education and find the best possible solution."

H1N1 Updates

In cooperation with the Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Public Schools is taking the necessary precautions to promote the health and welfare of our students by enacting the 2009 H1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza) prevention and intervention plan. Fortunately, it is now known that 2009 H1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza) causes mild illness in most individuals, similar to the flu we see every winter. However, to protect the health of our students, all Chicago Public Schools will be following the updated guidelines below:

- All students with a fever of 100° Fahrenheit (F) or greater must remain home from school.
- If a student is documented as having a fever of 100° F or greater after arriving to school the school is required to send the student home with a parent or guardian.
- Students may return to school only after they have been without a fever for 24 hours without the use of medicine (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, etc.) A healthcare provider's note is not required.

There are also certain children with underlying conditions that may be at increased risk for serious complications from the 2009 H1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza). These include:

- Children younger than 5 years of age.
- Children with long-term health problems with:
 - heart disease
 - lung disease (including asthma)
 - kidney disease
 - metabolic disease (such as diabetes)
 - liver disease anemia (other blood disorders)
- Children with a weakened immune system due to:
 - HIV/AIDS or other diseases affecting the immune system or long-term treatment with drugs such as steroids
 - cancer treatment with x-rays or drugs
- Anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders (such as seizure disorders or cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems
- Anyone 6 months through 18 years of age on long-term aspirin treatment (they could develop Reye Syndrome if they got influenza)
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

If your child has any of the conditions listed above, you should call your medical provider to discuss whether any additional action is needed. A list of health care providers may be obtained by contacting 3-1-1. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school or the Office of Specialized Services at 773-553-1830.

For the Latest Information and Updates Visit WWW.CPS.EDU

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 411 field-trip.	3 301 field-trip.	4 410 field-trip. PPLC meeting.	5 Smyser Music Booster meeting at 5:30 PM.	6 End of Quarter 1. No School for Students.	7 Illinois Reading Association.
8	9 ASAS visit.	10	11 No School- Veterans Day.	12	13 No Pre-kindergarten. PTO movie night.	14
15	16	17 Student Council Pizza Sale.	18 Report Card Pick-Up. 8th grade meeting.	19 LSC Meeting 6:15 PM. PTO Meeting 7:15 PM. 2nd grade field-trip.	20 NCLB nutrition workshop. SPED fieldtrip.	21
22	23	24 Delivery of Market Day fundraiser orders.	25 Smyser Spirit Day.	26 Thanks-giving.	27 No School.	28
29.	30					

THE SMYSER PTO WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING OUR MARKET DAY SALES
 Market Day is pleased to offer Cookie Dough Bonus Days this month with ten delicious flavors. Please look for your December order guide to come home soon or visit www.marketday.com. When you purchase Market Day cookie dough, you will help our school earn extra profit. The more you buy, the more we'll earn! Order online at until 11PM on 11/26/2009. Pick up your orders on 11/28/2009. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, you can call Maureen Luczak at 773.534.3780. Without your support we will not be able to purchase items that our school needs for 2009-2010.