

The Smyser Sentinel

Main & Annex Buildings- 4310 N. Melvina
Primary Center- 6200 W. Patterson

Access Compass Learning & Study Island Today!

COMPASS LEARNING ODYSSEY

Grades K-8

Contact Your Child's Teacher or the Main Office for a Username & Password

Our school has chosen to use Compass Learning Odyssey, a Web-based curriculum, to enhance your child's educational experience in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. Odyssey helps develop students' 21st century skills. 21st century skills are the critical-thinking, analysis, and technology skills that students will increasingly need in order to succeed in work – and in life – following their academic career. They require students to go beyond understanding basic concepts, asking that they synthesize classroom content with: 21st century interdisciplinary themes; learning and innovation skills; information, media, and technology skills; and life and career skills.

Compass Learning Odyssey solutions ensure that students receiving engaging, relevant, challenging activities that align to critical skills and objectives. When students work in Odyssey, they follow a solid scope and sequence of skills while simultaneously developing higher-order critical-thinking abilities. Instructional activities are aligned with current research on personalized learning paths that address each student's needs and progress monitoring that keeps students, educators, and parents up to date and scaffolded support that provides additional tools to help teach, guide, and clarify concepts for those who need it. Also, children taking the NWEA MAP assessment in grades 2-8 have individual learning paths created for them based on their RIT scores.

A Compass Learning Odyssey link has been added to the Smyser website. All children in Kindergarten

through Eighth grade have Usernames and Passwords. It is expected that children utilize and complete the modules assigned to them.

STUDY ISLAND

Grades 2-8 Reading, Math, and Science

Contact Your Child's Teacher or the Main Office for a Username & Password

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.

Smyser Accelerated School

4310 N. Melvina

Chicago, IL 60634

773-534-3711

773-534-8350

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www.smyser.org

Mr. Travlos, Principal

Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal

Ms. Portera, Assistant Principal

Smyser 2011-12 Free Supplemental Educational Services

On Thursday, September 29th Smyser Elementary School hosted a Supplemental Educational Services Vendor Fair. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) are a component of the Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). SES provides additional academic instruction, specifically in reading, math and/or science outside of the regular school to increase the academic achievement of students.

NCLB Right to Ask

The "No Child Left Behind" Act (NCLB), passed by Congress in January 2002, requires Chicago Public Schools to inform parents of their right to ask for the educational qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. Specifically, parents have a right to know:

- If their children's teachers have met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas they are teaching;
- If their children's teachers are teaching under emergency or other provisional status
- The undergraduate degree major of the teacher and any graduate degree they may hold; and
- The qualifications of any paraprofessionals providing services to their children.

If you wish any or all of the above information, please complete and return the form to your child's school. Please be aware, however, that CPS will begin its audit of employee qualifications in October 2011. Consequently, qualification data for teachers will not be available to parents/guardians until the second semester, after the audit is complete. At that time, parents who have completed the form below and requested the information may pick up the qualification information from the school. Information will not be mailed, faxed, or otherwise delivered.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the school. The request form can be downloaded from www.smyser.org.

Curriculum Night a Big Success

On Tuesday and Wednesday, September 13th & 14th, Smyser School held its annual Curriculum Night. Attendance was great and comments were extremely positive. Teachers presented visitors with curriculum outlines, behavioral expectations, beautiful displays of student work, and opportunities to tour the school. Administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and volunteers were on hand to meet, greet, and answer questions. I greatly enjoyed seeing all the smiling faces and listening to the wonderful compliments shared by parents and school community members. I would like to extend a special thanks to the staff for their hard work and professionalism. We're off to a wonderful start so let's keep the momentum moving forward!

After School Programming

Mr. Travlos and Ms. Erzurumly are busy organizing a comprehensive after-school program for students. Teachers are meeting to create dynamic learning and social experiences. Proudly, our school was awarded a competitive grant for After School All Stars Elite programming. Shortly, program offerings and permission slips will be distributed to students. Please, watch for these forms and make sure they get returned in a timely manner.

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).

\$100 Instructional Materials Fee

Children in grades K-8 are required to pay a \$100 instructional materials 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.

School Spirit Days

For 2011-2012 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 27th
*Wednesday, November 9th
*Thursday, November 17th
*Wednesday November 23rd
*Friday, December 23rd
*Thursday, January 26th
*Thursday, February 2nd
*Friday, March 30th
*Thursday, April 12th
*The week of June 11th.

FREE TUTORING FOR STUDENTS

Submit your SES applications today!

Visit www.smyser.org for more information and details.

2011-2012 High School Application Process Begins

The 2012-2013 applications for Options for Knowledge schools are now available. This year, applying to High Schools has been made easier. Parents will be able to take advantage of the online process to apply to **Selective Enrollment High Schools, Military Academies, and College and Career Academies**. Paper applications will still be available, but parents are encouraged to use the online process, which was designed to provide faster and more efficient processing of applications, while improving communication.

The following provides an overview of the application selection, and notification process for Selective Enrollment High Schools:

- ⇒ Parents of interested students submit a Selective Enrollment High Schools/Military Academies application to the Office of Academic Enhancement during the designated application period.
- ⇒ Parents can submit an application in one of two ways: online at www.apply.cps.edu or via paper application. (Step-by-step instructions for both processes can be found below.)
- ⇒ All eligible students must be tested. Students must pre-qualify for testing, based on their 2010-2011 ISAT scores, or scores from an accepted standardized test. See "Acceptable Standardized Tests" for a list of these.
- ⇒ There is no preference for applicants of siblings who are already enrolled.
- ⇒ There is no preference for applicants based on how close they live to the school.
- ⇒ Students are selected based on a final point score and in accordance with the tier system outlined in the magnet and selective enrollment schools admissions policy.
- ⇒ Notification letters are sent to parents by the Office of Academic Enhancement in February 2012.
- ⇒ Confirmation forms to accept or decline an offer are sent by parents to the Office of Academic Enhancement.
- ⇒ Eligible, non-selected students remain in an applicant pool, ranked by score.
- ⇒ Remaining seats are filled based on the applicant pool. Parents are contacted by the Office of Academic Enhancement.

Online Application Process: Follow the steps below to apply online:

- ⇒ Go to www.apply.cps.edu.
- ⇒ Click "Step 1" to request a Personal Identification Number (PIN). This is used instead of your signature.
- ⇒ The PIN will be mailed to your home address in approximately five days.
- ⇒ Use the PIN to sign on to the online site.
- ⇒ You only need to use the PIN once, you can use it to apply for more than one child in a family, and you can use

it to apply to all different types of schools and programs.

- ⇒ Select up to six Selective Enrollment High Schools and/or up to four Military Academies.
- ⇒ Submit your application by December 16, 2011, when complete.
- ⇒ Print the confirmation page for your records.
- ⇒ You will receive an email confirmation when your application is received by our office.
- ⇒ If your child attended a charter, private, parochial school, or other non-CPS school in 2010-2011, forward your child's standardized test scores and final classroom grades, along with your confirmation form, to the Office of Academic Enhancement.

Paper Application Process: Follow the instructions below to submit a paper application:

- ⇒ Use the paper Selective Enrollment High Schools/Military Academies Application (you may obtain the application at the Office of Academic Enhancement website, www.cpsoae.org -- click "Apply" and "Application Materials").
- ⇒ Select up to six Selective Enrollment High Schools.
- ⇒ Sign your completed application and, if your child attended a Chicago public school in the 2010-2011 school year, mail or hand-carry your application to the Office of Academic Enhancement. Mailed applications must be post-marked by December 16, 2011.
- ⇒ If your child attended a charter, private, parochial, or other non-CPS school in 2010-2011, submit your application to your child's current school counselor. The counselor will complete the application and forward your child's standardized test scores and final classroom grades, along with the application, to the Office of Academic Enhancement.
- ⇒ If you mail your application, we recommend that you include a self-addressed, stamped postcard/ envelope. When we receive your application, we will mail the postcard/envelope back to you as a receipt.
- ⇒ If you include an email address on your application, you will receive an email once your application has been processed.

For More Information Visit
www.cpsoae.org



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 GV vs. Portage Park.	5	6	7 ASAS & SES forms due.	8
9	10 Columbus Day - No School.	11	12 Mid-quarter Progress reports. Music Boosters meeting.	13 GV vs. Bridge	14	15 Smyser Band to Perform @ CAHS.
16	17	18 104 AM & PM fieldtrip. GV vs. Belding.	19 LSC & PTO meetings.	20 104 PM2 (Ms. Winter) Pumpkin Patch event.	21 No PreK classes.	22 Smyser Soccer Trip to Chicago Fire.
23	24	25 GV vs. Peterson.	26	27 GV vs. Prussing. Smyser combined evening concert.	28 Professional Development Day- No School.	29
CCSS Assessment	→					
30	31 Halloween.					



The annual celebration of National Red Ribbon week starts on October 24th, with communities and students across America committing themselves to living tobacco and drug-free lives. It is very appropriate for the Smyser School community to join with other Americans to support the dreams and goals of our children. This tradition is stronger than ever today, as an increasing number of Americans are saying "yes" to a drug-free life.

Red Ribbon Week is the most far-reaching and well-known drug prevention event in America. The National Family Partnership, which coordinates Red Ribbon activities nationally, estimates that over 80 million Americans participate in Red Ribbon events.

Please join me during this week in wearing a Red Ribbon to affirm our commitment to drug prevention and education. I also ask you to take time to talk to your children, families, and neighbors about living a drug-free lifestyle. I am also asking Smyser faculty and staff to encourage their students to spread this message of hope. This is a great opportunity for all of us to send a clear and unequivocal message that drugs damage lives---whether it is through addiction, unfulfilled dreams, or drug related incidents. It's a chance for us to work towards a drug-free America.