

The Smyser Sentinel

An ISBE Honor Roll/Spotlight School
An Autonomous Management Performance School
Congratulations Ms. Ledezma DRIVE Award Finalist

Access Study Island Today!

Grades 2-8 Reading and Math

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.

Using Study Island from Home

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.

Follow the instructions below to use the program:

1. Go to www.studyisland.com.
2. Enter your username and password at the upper left side of the screen, and click "Submit." Students will receive a username and password from the school.
3. Click on a subject (math, reading, etc).
4. If this is the first time using the program, click "Pretest." You must complete 10 Pretest questions to unlock the rest of the content in that subject. If there is no Pretest option, or if you have already taken the Pretest, you may move on to the other content topics.
5. Choose a Session Type. The default setting is Test mode; however students may also select Printable Worksheet or Game mode.
6. To pass a topic, you must meet the passing requirements, which are based on a minimum number of questions answered (usually 10) and a minimum percentage correct (around 70%). A blue ribbon icon is displayed next to all passed topics.
7. Once you have completed the Pretest, you may work through the remainder of the topics in any order. You must pass all topics before taking the Post Test.
8. Once you have passed all the topics, you must pass the Post Test to complete the subject. Ignore this step if the subject has no Post Test.
9. When you pass all topics in all subjects, you have completed the program.

To Access Reports:

Select a subject under "Reports" from the left-hand side of the screen to access your reports.

Smyser Accelerated School
4310 N. Melvina
Chicago, IL 60634
773-534-3711
Volume 8 Issue 2
October 2009
www.smyser.org
Mr. Travlos, Principal
Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal
Mr. Kosiek, LSC President
Mrs. Kosiek, PTO President

Smyser School Picture Day
Monday, October 19th

After School Programming

Mr. Travlos and Ms. Erzrumly 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. Unfortunately, funding for After School Counts- the academic component of the after school program- has been eliminated by the CBOE. The LSC has allocated funding to provide 3, 6, and 8th grade benchmark academic intervention. 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.

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
*Thursday, March 26th
*Friday, April 8th
*The week of June 14th.

**Chicago Public Schools
11th Annual High School Fair
Saturday, October 10, 2008
McCormick Place Hall D
2301 S. King Drive
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(Free Admission)
For Further Information, call
The Office of High Schools and High School Programs at
773-553-3540**

8th-Grade Students – Find out about the many educational opportunities available in CPS high schools. It's one-stop shopping for quality secondary education!

Parents – Learn about high school graduation requirements and high school Open House dates, obtain high school applications and find out how you can prepare your child to be successful in high school!

LOCAL CPS HIGH SCHOOL FAIR BY INVITATION ONLY AT BEAUBIEN SCHOOL

Through a unique partnership with neighboring schools, Smyser 8th grade students have been invited to attend a high school fair at Beaubien School on Tuesday, October 21st from 6:30-8 PM. The school is located at 5025 N. Laramie. Each child must be accompanied by parent or adult. Many of the neighborhood and selective high schools will be in attendance.

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).

H1N1 Updates

There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses.

Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people. If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.
- Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. CDC recommends that when you wash your hands -- with soap and warm water -- that you wash for 15 to 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used.* You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores. If using gel, rub your hands until the gel is dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in it kills the germs on your hands.

What should I do if I get sick?

If you live in areas where people have been identified with 2009 H1N1 flu and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people. CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Stay away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick. Staying at home means that you should not leave your home except to seek medical care. This means avoiding normal activities, including work, school, travel, shopping, social events, and public gatherings.

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 below to your child's school. Please be aware, however, that CPS will begin its audit of employee qualifications in October 2009. 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 Wednesday, September 16th, Smyser School held its annual Open-House. 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!

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.

\$50 Book Fee

Smyser Annual PTO Fundraiser In Cooperation with Market Day We need your help and support. Our goal is to raise \$10,000

We hope you enjoy shopping our new "Life:Styles" brochure featuring products to organize your home, create memories, and prepare delicious family meals along with best sellers such as quality gift wrap, magazines, gourmet chocolates, jewelry, and home décor! Best of all, we receive profit on every item purchased!

To make our event more successful, marketdayfundraising.com offers new features including:

- Email invitations sent on your behalf to make it easy to reach supporters near or far.
- Easy on-line ordering so friends and family anywhere in the U.S. can ship their purchase directly to their home.
- New online exclusive products such as personalized gifts and licensed team merchandise.

EASY STEPS TO REMEMBER

If paying by money order, please make payable to : Smyser School. Payment is due with order. Verify the seller name is written on the order form and the return envelope. Return both copies of the order form with payment by the due date below in the envelope provided.

SEVERAL THINGS YOU WILL LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- It's voluntary!
- The products are guaranteed 100%.
- You can earn exciting prizes.

PARENTS CAN HELP

- Many parents take the brochures to work and take orders from their friends and associates.

PLEASE RETURN ALL ORDERS AND MONEY ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th Please collect the money as you take orders! Only cash or money orders made out to Smyser School will be accepted (sorry no personal checks).

October 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 102 fieldtrip. PTO movie night	3
4	5	6 102 fieldtrip.	7	8 PreK field-trip.	9 Prek Field-trip.	10 CPS High School Fair.
11	12 No School.	13	14 Mid-quarter progress reports.	15 DRIVE Banquet.	16 PTO Fund-raiser order due.	17
18	19 Smyser Fall Pictures.	20 102 field-trip.	21 LSC and PTO meetings.	22 Spirit Day. Chicago Fire fieldtrip.	23 No School. PTO Monster-bash 5-8 PM.	24
25	26 After School Program to begin.	27 1st grade fieldtrip.	28 3rd grade fieldtrip. 102 fieldtrip.	29	30	31



The annual celebration of National Red Ribbon week starts on October 23rd, 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. Students will receive and display materials and ribbons promoting a tobacco and drug-free lifestyle.

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.