

The Smyser Sentinel

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

Welcome Back Students, Parents, Faculty, and Staff

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I welcome you back to Smyser Accelerated School. The start of each academic year is a perfect opportunity to reaffirm high expectations and goals for making this a dynamic and wonderful year.

As always, Smyser School strives to provide high quality educational services to all children through a variety of programs.

The Vision of Our school is as follows:

- We, the community of Smyser School, believe that all children can learn and are entitled to an outstanding education rich in opportunities and rewarding experiences. We are committed to providing all children with: a child-centered environment, a love of learning, pride in Smyser School, and preparation for the demands of the 21st Century. Our motto is, Smyser School: A Community of Learners.

The Mission of Our School is as follows:

- Our mission is to make Smyser School a great place to learn by emphasizing the needs of all students (general, gifted, bilingual, and special needs) including social, emotional, and intellection growth through a rich and rewarding literacy and critical thinking curriculum integrating technology and fostering an appreciation for the arts.

The Priority Goals as stated in School Improvement Plan are as follows:

- Goal 1 Reading: To promote literacy by emphasizing reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and writing across the curriculum increasing student achievement in grades pre-K through 8.
- Goal 2 Math: To promote critical thinking, performance based, hands-on mathematics in grades pre-K through 8 so as to increase student achievement. Cross curriculum connections will be made in science and technology.
- Goal 3 Technology: To provide additional support and curriculum integration for students, teachers, parents, and community.
- Goal 4 Music: To provide funding to support music, concert choir, junior choir, and show choir programs.

I look forward to a year full of wonderful work, academic accomplishments and high student performance. Let's work together to support our school and teachers in addressing our vision, mission, and goals.

Smyser Accelerated School
4310 N. Melvina
Chicago, IL 60634
773-534-3711
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www.smyser.org
Mr. Travlos, Principal
Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal
Ms. Portera, Assistant Principal

Smyser School Expands to Include the Primary Center Building at 6200 W. Patterson.

With student enrollment expected to exceed 1,050 students, the Smyser School community worked hard to advocate for overcrowding relief. Through the help of CPS Board President Richardson Lowry and many other key officials, various options were explored to address this issue: closed enrollment, boundary changes, space sharing at other underutilized schools, and off-site leasing of space. After an exhausting amount of work, I happily shared with you a plan approved and executed for the leasing of the Messiah Lutheran School located at 6200 W. Patterson (Patterson and Melvina). We worked very hard to create a dynamic learning environment for our Kindergarten and First Grade students with Smyser administration, teachers, staff, and ancillary personnel. The Smyser Primary Center (PC- formerly Messiah Lutheran School) has been transformed into a beautiful facility with seven classrooms, a gymnasium, multipurpose room, administrative office, and kitchen.

Kindergarten School Day Procedures

- Location: Smyser Primary Center at 6200 W. Patterson.
- Morning classes (102PC1 and 103PC1) begin at 8:00 AM and dismiss at 12:00 PM.
- Afternoon classes (102PC2 and 103PC2) begin at 12:20 PM and dismiss at 4:20 PM.
- Children line-up outside the building. Teachers will meet students at the door and escort them into the classroom. Parents are requested to

remain outside as their children enter the building. Be sure to meet your child at dismissal time.

- Kindergarten teachers are available for conferences either morning or after school. Prior notification is kindly requested.
- If your child will be absent, please call the attendance office before 8:00 AM. Also, a parent/guardian written absence note will be required when your child returns to school.

First Grade School Day Procedures

- Location: Smyser Primary Center at 6200 W. Patterson
- Classes begin at 8:30 and dismiss at 2:15.
- Children line-up outside the building. The teacher will meet the students at the door and escort them into the classroom. Parents are requested to remain outside as their children enter the building. Be sure to meet your child at dismissal time.
- Teachers are available for conferences either morning or after school. Prior notification is kindly requested.
- If your child will be absent, please call the attendance office before 8:30 AM. Also, a parent/guardian written absence note will be required when your child returns to school.-3:45 PM.

We are proud to offer enhanced services and innovative programming for our community. Should you have any questions, feel free to call us at 773-534-3711 (MAIN) or 773-534-8350 (PC).

Smyser \$100 Instructional Material Fee

Thank you very much for your continued support of our wonderful school. As you already know, Chicago Public Schools are experiencing a terrible funding crisis. Along with the Local School Council, I have worked hard to insure that instructional programs are not impacted and that our children continue to receive high quality educational services. Children in grades K-8 are required to pay an annual \$100 work book fee. The money is used to purchase consumable instructional materials in language arts, math, social studies, science and other instructional areas. Work books are for the sole possession and use of the child. Two payment options have been created.

- Full Payment Early Bird Discount- \$90 if paid by October 3rd.
- Installment Plan- \$50 Semester 1 due September 16th and \$50 Semester 2 due January 20th.

Payment can be given directly to your child's teacher or office using cash, cashier's check, or money order (made out to Smyser School). We hope to be offering a credit card option soon. Sorry, CPS Policy prohibits the acceptance of personal checks. Kindly, place payment in a sealed envelope labeled Materials Fee along with your child's name and room number. Our funding is limited and this fee is necessary for us to continue providing our children with high quality educational services and materials.

Approximate Costs of Consumable Instructional Materials

	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$40	\$35	\$35	\$35
Math	\$35	\$40	\$40	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$15
Phonics/Spelling	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20		\$15			
Writing	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Hand Writing			\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10			
Science				\$10	\$10	\$10	\$13	\$13	\$13
Social Studies				\$10	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$15
Planners/Folders		\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Study Island		\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7
Miscellaneous- Weekly Readers etc...	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Total	\$102	\$112	\$122	\$112	\$102	\$117	\$100	\$100	\$100

Measures of Academic Progress– MAP Testing to Begin 9/12

During the month of September children in grades 2-8 will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). MAP tests are used to determine your child's instructional level, to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading and math. Your child will take the tests on a computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to your child's appropriate level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth.

Each school year, students in grades 2nd through 8th take the tests three times a year. Following each testing period, we will receive a report showing your child's growth.

As we prepare for year three of MAP testing in September, you will be invited to attend informational meetings that fully explain the purposes of the tests and how we will use the information obtained to promote your child's learning.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. **Partnering to help all kids learn**, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children. For more information on resources for parents, download the *Parent Toolkit* at www.nwea.org.

Welcome New Faculty & Staff

On behalf of the entire Smyser School community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff members:

Ms. Dinella, 406
 Ms. Yarber, 103
 Ms. Tszupek, SECA
 Ms. Reina, SECA
 Ms. Fraczek, SECA
 Ms. Hayes, CWA
 Ms. Olszewski, CPD
 Mr. Long, CPS
 Mr. Rivera, Factor Custodian

Notice to Parents and Staff Regarding the Asbestos Management Plan Notification

This is to notify you in accordance with Illinois and Federal Asbestos Regulations, that a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available at each school during school hours by appointment. Requests to review the Asbestos Management Plan must be made at least 24 hours in advance. Also please be advised that CPS conducts asbestos inspections of all schools every three years. The last inspection was completed in 2007. Asbestos surveillances are conducted every six months.

Join Us for Our Annual Curriculum Night 4:30-6:30 PM

Main & Annex Buildings- Tuesday, 9/13

Primary Center- Wednesday, 9/14

Smyser Homework Policy and Parent Portal

According to CPS policy, homework is to be assigned to:

- Provide reinforcement, practice, application, and enrichment of what is taught in class.
- Prepare students for meaningful class participation.
- Develop independent activities beyond the school hours.
- Provide an opportunity for student creativity.
- Foster a closer home-school connection and ongoing parental involvement in the student's education.
- Provide opportunities for the student to gain experience in the utilization of community resources.
- Assist students in achieving the standards for promotion.

Suggested homework allocations per day for teacher directed homework by grade level are as follows:

- K- 15 minutes per day
- Grades 1, 2, 3- 30 minutes per day.
- Grades 4, 5, 6- 45 minutes per day.

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.**

Order Your Gym Uniforms Today

Smyser School is taking orders for gym uniforms for all ages.

- Ash (small crest) T-shirt- \$7
- Red (large logo) Sweat Shirt- \$11
- Red Shorts (small logo)- \$10
- Red Sweatpants (Smyser + logo)- \$11

Pre-orders are required. Plenty of stock is available. Order will be filled and delivered to your child's room. Cash, cashiers checks and money orders are accepted. Please no checks!

An order sheet can be downloaded from www.smyser.org.

- Grades 7 and 8- 90 minutes per day

Please monitor your child's homework daily by checking his or her planner and making sure homework is being completed.

The Parent Portal is a unique web-based tool that allows you to securely view your child's grades and attendance online. You can register to receive e-mail or text notifications when your child is absent or when his or her grades drop below a point you identify. Additionally, you will be able to communicate directly with your child's teachers, enhancing the opportunity for parent-teacher interaction.

You will need your child's CPS ID number as well as your unique school-issued personal identification number (PIN) prior to creating an account. Please contact Mrs. Luczak, Ms. Wodrich or Mr. Beiza to learn how to obtain your PIN. To ensure the security of your child's records, PINs will not be issued over the phone or via email under any circumstance. A direct link to the Parent Connection login page has been added. Please go to the "web links" section on the lower right portion of the Smyser homepage.

Join Today- Smyser PTO Family Membership

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! Meetings are held once a month following the LSC meeting. You do not have to attend but everyone is always welcome. PTO membership dues are \$3.00 minimum per family (other monetary donations are always welcome). A family membership gets you a free school magnet. Visit our school website at www.smyser.org for more information.

10 Ways to Boost School Success

Whether your child is starting preschool or eighth grade, these little strategies can make a huge difference.

1. Insist on a good nights sleep.
2. Check the backpack daily.
3. Teach your child to ask for what he or she needs.
4. Always go to open house/report card pick-up.
5. Focus on manners, social skills, and positive behavior.
6. Know the daily school routine.
7. Help your child be organized.
8. Volunteer whenever you can.
9. Read to your child.
10. Show you care about school.



Smyser School Dress Code

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.

Meal Information

In an effort to increase efficiency and reduce paper usage, CPS has introduced a Household Lunch Application. Only 1 meal application should be returned to each school of attendance. If you have any questions contact the Main Office. Lunch forms will be distributed the first day of school. It is imperative that every family submit a completed form. School funding and supplemental resources are granted to our school based on data gathered from these forms. Feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

In an effort to expedite meal service and increase instructional time, we are now able to accept payment for meals in advance. Students are to drop-off payments to the Lunchroom Manager or designee from 8:30-9:15 AM (MAIN BUILDING) or 8:00-8:45 AM (Primary Center) outside of the cafeteria. Teachers no longer accept money. Also, prepayment 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 2011-2012 school year are as follows:

- Full price student breakfast- FREE
- Full price student lunch \$2.25
- Reduced priced lunch is \$0.40
- Milk only is \$0.35.

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

- Student name
- Student homeroom
- Amount enclosed
- 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. Students receiving free breakfast/lunch will be not affected. If you have any questions, please contact our Lunchroom Managers or the Main Office.

Calendar Reminders

HOLIDAYS- School Closed

Labor Day	September 5
Columbus Day	October 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 25
M.L. King's B-Day	January 16
Lincoln's B-Day	February 13
President's Day	February 20
Pulaski B-Day	March 5
Memorial Day	May 28

VACATION DAYS- School Closed

Winter Vacation	12/26-1/6
Spring Vacation	4/2-4/6
Summer Vacation	6/25

NON-ATTENDANCE DAYS

Professional Development/Institute Days-
September 23
October 28

November 10

November 18

January 27

February 3

April 13

June 14

Report Card Pick-Up-

November 16 and April 18

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Current physicals must be provided upon enrolling into CPS, entering Preschool, K, 6th or 9th graders (no later than 10/15/2011).

DENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Dental exams must be provided by students entering K, 2nd, or 6th grade upon enrollment (no later than May 15, 2012).

Food Policy Change

Due to an increase in the number of students with severe food allergies, the following precautions and policy changes are being implemented for this school year:

- Parents, student, and guests are to refrain from bringing classroom snacks, birthday treats, or food to distribute to students. Instead, consider alternatives like pencils, bookmarks, stickers, key chains, and other fun items.
- Please, avoid sending your child to school with peanut or peanut butter food items that can trigger an allergic reaction in others.
- A "Peanut Free" table is being designated in the cafeteria to help protect child with peanut allergies.