Welcome to the 6th grade Back to School Night. I do believe most of you who I am but for our new families, I am Jon Horton, principal. The expectation and hope for this year are to resume to a schedule we had prior to the pandemic while still following the PA Department of Health guidelines. We will be following the same procedures as last year except the masks are now optional. All of the guidelines can be found in our Health and Safety plan which is available on the SESD Home page. If you scroll down to the calendar, you will see it on the left side.

Before I send you to your locations, I briefly want to highlight some changes. This year all students will have a similar specials schedule from last year. Just a reminder that Makerspace was created so that students could apply those hands-on Art projects in the Makerspace. This transfer of Art concepts will enable students to be more created with their Makerspace projects in other content areas. Students will have a special rotation that includes 2 days of Music, 1 day of Computer Science, 1 day Research 1 day of Art and 1 day of Makerspace. All of these subjects will be graded only twice a year.

Our other rotation is the Wellness rotation. Students will have three days of Wellness which includes PE and Health. There will be more of a health integration into PE again this year. That means some health assignments will be completed as homework then applied to PE in the next scheduled PE day. This year we have expanded our Bike Safety Unit in Wellness and purchased a class set of bicycles, helmets, knee pads, etc. We feel it is important that all students know how to ride a bicycle, not only for the fitness aspect, but also the possibility of transportation when living in large metropolitan areas, etc. Depending upon PA Department of Health Guidelines, 6th grade students may or may not be required to change for PE. More information will follow.

Students are still assigned to a two-teacher team as last year. Math will continue to be 80 minutes and ELA continues to be 120 minutes daily. Math teachers will teach science and all teachers will instruct social studies. With the retirement of Go-Math, we have purchased a new math series K-6 called I-Ready Math. We will be using the PA Ready math series created by I-Ready to meet PA standards. I-Ready math is one of the two highest rated math programs currently in publication. Our district piloted the top two programs last year and the math committee consisting of 27 teachers K-6 unanimously approved the purchase of I-Ready.

We have a new staff member joining SEIS. Although not new to the District, Mrs. Amy Custer will be instructing 6th grade Learning Support.

If you are dropping your child off at school, the drop off point remains the same which is in the side parking lot. The student will enter the building through the cafeteria doors. Please do not drop off your child prior to 8:10 a.m. We do not have the staff coverage to monitor the cafeteria and we do not want your child waiting outside. This year we will have two drop off spots in the parking lot. Please look for staff directions.

When picking up your child we will ask that you notify us that day. Doors will open by 3:10 and close by 3:20. If you are running late please notify the office. Due to the increased number of cars for parent pick -up and to avoid congestion leading from the campus to Route 851, I ask that you drive to the right side of the Middle School along side the old football field and drive behind the Middle School Building past the Administration Building to form the line.

All students must be in their class at 8:30 a.m. otherwise they are late. If you are walking in the office at 8:30am then your son or daughter is late. They must be in class at 8:30a.m.

Please check your child’s agenda for any discipline. We use a point system and when a student accumulates ten points they are assigned a detention. I will not call home for every discipline issue unless it is one that is a Level three or four in our discipline code which can be found in the student agenda. At this age, I believe students need to be responsible and need to take ownership for their actions and consequences. I will send home the discipline referral with the expectation your son or daughter will explain what happened. Please sign and have your child return the form to the office. If you need further clarification, please call me.

If your child is absent, we must receive a written note either from you or the doctor’s office regardless if you have called the office, etc. We need this written proof of absence within five days of the absence or it will be marked truant. Depending upon the reason, the absence may not be excused. If you question the absent, contact the school and we can work with you within the parameters we are allowed. PDE has specific criteria and requires written notes for all absences which we must follow. Pre-approve trips can be used for special events when a student is absent. Please review the guidelines for Pre-approved trips found in the handbook page 7.

Unless you request a hard copy, report cards will be issued on line and not sent home. If you do not have an account established in Sapphire, please do so. If you need assistance, please contact the office. By creating a Sapphire Account, you will be able to see everything live and up to date.

Just as an fyi, lunch menus could change at a last minute’s notice. Due to supply issues, some items may not be readily available. Check the District website for any changes. We will continue to offer free breakfast for all students as we did at the end of last year. Students can pick up items at a cart leading to their homeroom and eat breakfast during the video morning announcements in their homeroom. Students will need to use their student ID’s to scan for lunch. They are required to keep the ID’s in school and not take them home. We have a limited number to replace lost ID cards. At some point it will become a disciplinary issue. Please remind them to keep their ID’s in their locker hanging on the hook.

Please review the dress code with your son or daughter on pages 5 and 6 in the student handbook. We see many growth changes when students come to the Intermediate Building.

We will be conducting fire drills monthly as well as Intruder drills. We will have an evacuation drill to KD within the first several weeks of school. I plan to hold a sever weather drill in September and we will have an Earthquake drill in October. This is for your information in case you hear or see the students leaving the building in large masses and first responders are on site. We will invite the local first responders to participate in our drills.

Our PTO is a very active PTO with few parents. I am encouraging you to join. Our PTO has been very helpful in providing our students with some additional opportunities they would not have been afforded because of budgetary costs. PTO also dialogues with administration/teachers about programs in the building. We want your input. Check our web page for the PTO link for more information. Mrs. Rachel Taylor is our president (I will introduce her) and she is standing at the end of the gym. PTO has a table set up in the locker bank area. Please stop by and sign up. We really encourage your involvement in our school.

When you report to your team location, please sign in for attendance purposes. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Here are the locations for the teams:

Mr. Weakland/Mrs. Warner are in the cafeteria

Mr. Kline/Mrs. Wise are in the LGI

Mr. Brenneman/Mrs. Alt are here in the gym

Mrs. Kline/Ms. D’Andrea are in the Library and Music Room (Mrs. Kline is in the Music Room and Ms. D’Andrea is in the Library. Please report by homeroom.)