

# Meigs Memos

## Tuesday, August 6, 2019

A Weekly Publication of Meigs Academic Magnet School [www.meigsacademicmagnet.org](http://www.meigsacademicmagnet.org)

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**NEW** this year! >> Use the new [My School Bucks app](#) to pay for school lunch

### Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

#### **From Dr. Underwood, Executive Principal:**

Welcome to Meigs Academic Magnet School! What an amazing first day of school we have had! It was so nice meeting everyone this morning, and so wonderful to see all of our kids' smiling faces! We've been working hard over the summer preparing for another incredible school year! We know that the community of learners is strong and our parent support is unsurpassed. The Meigs faculty is an amazing group of professionals! Please welcome our newest faculty members: Ms Megan Brinkmann (5<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy), Ms Deanna Boorsma (6<sup>th</sup> grade Math), Ms Jessica Sheran (8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish I), and Ms Sandra Oden (6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education). Our curriculum is not only rigorous at its' academic core but also serves to develop talents and interests that help education become more meaningful and relevant to our students. In fact, *the mission of Meigs Academic Magnet School is to provide a rigorous liberal arts curriculum that will allow our capable learners to perform at high standards of academic and social development.* We look forward to your partnership in helping us achieve this mission!

Each Tuesday, beginning next week, you will receive "Meigs Memos" which will highlight the happenings at Meigs. Memos will be sent electronically if we have your e-mail address. We will also have hard copies of each Memo available in our main office, and posted to our website.

Our website contains valuable information, so I encourage you to visit the site often. The website address is [www.meigsacademicmagnet.org](http://www.meigsacademicmagnet.org). This is truly a convenient way to stay aware of happenings and celebrations!

As always, I hope the first days of school are memorable and fulfilling! Have a wonderful school year!

#### **From Dr. Sonja W. Rosse, Assistant Principal:**

Welcome back Meigs parents and students! Meigs is truly a wonderful place to learn, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to work together with your child and your family. I am certain we are about to embark upon a great school year filled with hope, purpose, vision, and excitement. I want to take this opportunity to wish you all the best during the upcoming months and thank you in advance for the intentional work that will change the lives of our scholars. I look forward to a year filled with collaboration and increased achievement!

If you are a returning parent and student, we ask that you please continue to use the same car line procedures and car line number/hang tag as last year until you receive the 2019-20 tag (it will be the same letter and number as you have used in the past). However, if you had a car pool number last year, you will receive a new car pool number this year. We will send out directions soon on how to register your car pool.

The car line procedures are on the website. They will not be copied and sent out in the "First Day Packet" this year. All parents will receive a copy of the car line procedures, and we ask that all parents review these procedures. To expedite student pick up in the afternoons, we

are asking all parents to please make sure your car line hang tag is hanging from your rearview mirror prior to picking up your child. To maintain student safety, we are reminding all parents to please follow the dismissal and drop off procedures. If there are any procedural changes throughout the year, we will communicate them to you.

If you have any questions, please contact me @ 615-271-3222 ext. 555352, or by email at [Sonja.wilson-rosse@mnps.org](mailto:Sonja.wilson-rosse@mnps.org).

### **First Day Packets**

Your child will be bringing home important information AND MANY FORMS that need to be read, completed, and returned to your child's homeroom teacher. All of these forms are significant but some require signatures. Please remember that the signature page in the code of conduct booklet allows us to publicly recognize your child, as well as allow use of the internet while your child is here at school. We realize that much of the information may appear to be redundant but we would like to have information for different circumstances such as when the internet is down. Thank you so much for understanding the need to return these items in a timely manner.

Information that used to be included in the First Day Packet, that is "for your information, only", is now listed on the Meigs' website [www.meigsacademicmagnet.org](http://www.meigsacademicmagnet.org). This information includes:

- Meningococcal Vaccines – What you Need to Know
- When to Say Home
- Honor Code
- Meigs Car Rider Guidelines/Campus Map
- PTO: Welcome Letter
- Shop at Meigs Mart
- Try the Ride (WeGo)
- PTO: Connect and Contribute/Invest!
- WeGo to Meigs Academic Magnet School
- Meigs Memos, August 5, 2019

### **Office Contacts**

Dr. Scott Underwood	Executive Principal	271-3222 X 555351
Dr. Sonja Rosse	Assistant Principal	271-3222 X 555352
Ms Carmen Mullins	Dean of Instruction	271.3222 X 555140
Ms Belinda Hotchkiss	School Counselor (5 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> )	271.3222 X 555312
Ms Melody Osborne	School Counselor (6 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> )	271-3222 X 555311

Meigs Magnet School Hours: 8:00 – 3:00 pm (**Half days are 8:00 am - 11:30 am**)

The main office is open from 7:30 am to 3:45 pm Monday-Friday.

**Communication with Teachers** Realizing that not all of you have ready access to internet and email, the agenda is an invaluable tool for direct communication with your teachers. As stated earlier in this memo, Agendas may be purchased for \$6. Agendas are being sold in each student's homeroom class. Email is also an easy way to communicate with your teachers; however, please remember that most teachers respond to e-mail requests during their planning time. If there is an urgent need to deliver a message to your child before

school is out, the best method is telephoning our school office and we will put a message on the message board. Your child will be called to the office during afternoon announcements to get his or her message. Many of our teachers will use individual teacher websites through our school website to give classroom information. All teachers will post grades online through Infinite Campus' Parent Portal.

If you have any concerns or important information to share about your child and his/her experiences here at Meigs, we want to hear about them as soon as possible. Please understand, however, that in order to protect instructional time, our teachers will not be able to hold impromptu conferences at the beginning of the school day or during class time.

**Attendance Policy** When children are absent from school, the absence is automatically considered unexcused unless parents have put the reason in writing. We ask that children bring excuse notes to the office immediately upon arrival to school. Parents may also fax excuse notes to 271-3223 or they may email the attendance secretary (Kathryn.forrest@mnps.org) . After three unexcused absences, a letter is sent advising parents of the possibility of an attendance review board. After 5 unexcused absences, a truancy letter will be mailed to your home address. **Please pay attention to an additional expectation regarding our Meigs attendance policy: After 10 absences (regardless of being excused or unexcused), a doctor's note will be required for each absence, thereafter, in order for the absence to be considered "excused".**

**Schedule Changes** All schedule changes must be approved by Dr. Underwood. A request for a schedule change must be submitted in writing, along with documentation supporting the reason for the request.

**Open House** Open House has been scheduled for 5:30 on Thursday, August 15h. All grade levels will meet that evening. We schedule Open House as early as possible, so you will have an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and to receive information such as homework and grading policies. Unfortunately, teachers will not be able to discuss individual children during this night due to privacy issues but stand ready to meet with parents individually at scheduled conferences.

**Car Rider Safety Emphasis** Traffic may be slow around dismissal and arrival this week. Please bear with us regarding any traffic backup that we may have. Remember that there is no drop-off of students on Ramsey Street. All car riders should use the drive-way in the back of the school. While we understand that the Ramsey Street drop-off may appear inviting, if all 700 students used Ramsey, the entire drop-off/pick-up would be chaotic and our neighbors would be inconvenienced. At dismissal, students who are riding in cars should wait until the car he/she is riding in pulls up to the school. *For everyone's safety, you must use the car rider line rather than park on side streets.* This has become an even more important policy as new neighbors continue to move into the apartments surrounding Meigs. We want to be good neighbors! Students will not be allowed to walk across streets or leave campus without a parent escort. If you choose for your child to walk off campus for any reason at dismissal, we must have a parent note on file in the main office giving permission for your child to be a "walker" at the end of the school day. These letters can be brought in to the main office or you can email the information to [kathryn.forrest@mnps.org](mailto:kathryn.forrest@mnps.org). If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to retrieve your child early, we ask that you come to the

main office, sign your child out of school and escort your child safely to your vehicle. Please be mindful that our teachers are working hard to maintain a safe environment during arrival and dismissal. Thank you for your understanding of our need to provide a safe environment for your child.

**Athletic Physicals** Any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student wishing to compete on any of our athletic teams must have a current physical (dated April 15, 2019 or later) on file as well as proof of insurance, and parent consent. All athletic forms will be available in the main office for students to pick up.

**YMCA Fun Company:** Fun Company meets each day that school is in session in the cafeteria. The morning hours are 6:30 to 7:30, and the afternoon hours are from 3:00 to 6:00. Registration is required in order to attend this program.

### **CAVALIERS ON STAGE SHOW CHOIR AUDITIONS**

Cavaliers on Stage Show Choir auditions will be held Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:10-5:00pm. Each student should prepare a 1-minute vocal audition (roughly a verse and chorus) to sing individually using a karaoke/accompaniment track.

There will also be a short dance combination taught and performed during the audition process.

Rehearsals for Cavaliers on Stage Show Choir will occur every Monday and Thursday from 3:10-4:15 up to the concert performance (November date TBD) during first semester.

Students will be required to purchase a choir t-shirt (roughly \$10) to wear during pep rally/concert performances/other guest appearances.

Audition applications/contracts and rehearsal calendars will be available for students to pick up in Room 101 (Mr. Randolph's room) beginning Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. These forms must be turned in on/before Monday August 12<sup>th</sup> to audition.

### **Meigs Football**

There will be an informational meeting at 7:45 in the MPR for any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student interested in playing football at West End Middle School this season. If interested, please make plans to attend.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Try The Ride	August 7, 2:30
Open House	August 15, 5:30 p.m.
Picture Day	August 22

### **MEIGSACADEMICMAGNET.ORG**

We have a school calendar where everything that is going on at Meigs is listed! Please use the link below to access the Meigs Calendar to see all the wonderful and exciting things we have coming up. You can also access this page through the Meigs home page under the calendar and news link.

<http://www.meigsacademicmagnet.org/calendar.html>