

Combs Middle School
"Home of the Cougars"

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July 1, 2016

Happy Summer Cougars,

I hope your summer break is allowing for many opportunities to spend quality time with family and friends! As the upcoming school year approaches, please review the CMS back-to-school information.

July 26th-29th – Bookstore Days – Middle School Administration Office

Bookstore Days allow families the opportunity to address responsibilities related to the start of the school year. Those responsibilities include picking up a rough draft copy of your child's schedule, completing free-and-reduced food service form, and paying school fees (checks, cash or online).

Listed below are the fees for the upcoming school year:

\$25 – activity fee (covers the cost of student ID, student planner, and a variety of activities during the year)

\$35 – yearbook purchase cost (\$40 after January 1st) – this fee is optional

Please come to the administrative office anytime during the bookstore days/hours listed below:

July 26 – 1:00-4:00 p.m.

July 28 – 1:00-4:00 p.m.

July 27 – 8:15-11:15 a.m.

July 29 – 8:15-11:15 a.m.

To avoid long lines at Meet-the-Teacher Night, please consider paying your fees during the Bookstore Days.

August 2nd – Meet-the-Teacher Night and 7th Grade Orientation

The 7th graders are invited to attend an orientation beginning at 4:00 pm in the cafeteria. The orientation will take place 4:00-5:30 pm. This event will allow for the 7th graders to become more familiar with their school before classes begin on Wednesday morning.

At 5:30 pm, students/parents/guardians meet in the gymnasium to pick up class schedules and address questions related to bus transportation, medical issues, and food service. Bus route information and free-and-reduced food service forms will be available. Yearbook orders will be taken. Fees may be paid (checks and cash only). At 6:00 pm, students/parents/guardians will follow through the student's schedule in order to meet teachers and find out information about each particular class.

Additional parking on the football field will be available for this evening. To take advantage of this parking, please enter the field through the south parking lot (Combs Road side of school). As you circle around the south side of the gymnasium, staff will be available to assist with parking.

August 3rd – First Day of School – 3:10 Early Dismissal Schedule

The first day of classes will be on Wednesday, August 3rd. CMS will follow the 3:10 early dismissal schedule with classes beginning at 9:00 a.m. and dismissal at 3:10 p.m. Bus routes will run (to/from school). Breakfast/Lunch will be served. Students will be able to pick up their "official" class schedule in the cafeteria from 8:15 a.m. to 8:55 a.m. that morning.

Campus Hours

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Campus opens: 8:25 a.m. – Campus opens for students.

Class hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:55 p.m. (note: Students are dismissed at 3:10 p.m. every Wednesday.)

Cougars Going Green

School newsletters will be sent via e-mail and will be posted on our school website. For families who do not have e-mail, hard copies of these documents will be available for pick-up in the front office. School families will also receive e-mails throughout the school year to keep everyone informed of the many great experiences that will be taking place. To make

sure you receive all of the school information that will be shared, please communicate with the front office anytime a change occurs to your e-mail address or phone number.

Athletic Program

Throughout the school year, middle school students may participate in a competitive athletic program. To participate, a student must complete the following:

- Parent/Guardian Permission Slip
- Insurance and Emergency Contact Information
- Physical Examination (by a physician)

A \$75 fee (for competitive teams) will be due when the student is chosen for the team. The athletic forms will be available for pick up during bookstore days and are also available on the CMS website.

Back-Packs/Lockers

There are no school lockers for academic materials. Lockers are available for PE classes. Students will be responsible to monitor their academic back-pack during the school day.

Cafeteria

The district participates in the National School Breakfast/Lunch program. All meals served meet guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Free/Reduced Applications:

One application per household is needed each year. Applications may be completed after July 1st and should be completed prior to September 1st. Please allow 10 school days for a response. Families are notified in writing of the status of a request. Qualifying students receive one breakfast meal and one lunch meal daily. Applications are available at the district web site (www.jocombs.org) through the Food Service icon located under Departments.

Management of Lunch Accounts:

Students are notified at least three (3) meals before they run out of money because each time they purchase a meal the computer will alert them they will need money.

EzSchoolpay.com:

This is an online payment option. You need to call 480-987-5312 for your student's ID number to begin. Checking your child's account balance and making payments online are great benefits.

Student Prices:

Menus are available in the front office, from the cafeteria, or under the Food Service section under Departments on the district website at www.jocombs.org.

Lunch:	Day - \$ 2.90	Milk - \$.50	Water - \$.75
Breakfast:	Day - \$ 1.25		
Reduced:	Lunch - \$.40	Breakfast - \$.30	

Dress Code

The middle school establishes a dress code to maintain a proper academic environment within the school community, to support the dignity of the individual, and to instill good grooming habits in appearance. Each student's dress and personal appearance should be of such character so as not to disrupt or distract the educational environment of the school.

Pants, Skirts, Shorts, etc.:

Shorts and skirts must maintain a length of 2 inches from the top of the knee.

Shirts, Tops, Blouses, etc.:

Straps must be at least 3 inches wide covering undergarments. No see-through shirts/necklines that expose cleavage.

Physical Education

PE students must wear athletic t-shirt, athletic shorts, socks, and tennis shoes. There will not be a PE uniform.

Inappropriate Dress:

Clothing may not have excessive tears or holes; tights (not flesh colored) must be worn under a garment when the tear/hole is in violation of other areas of the dress code.

Information contained in this section of the back-to-school letter is intended to assist families with clothing purchases over the summer. The entire dress code is specifically detailed in the student-parent handbook.

Health Services

A full time Medical Assistant (MA) is available to students during the school day. Students who are ill and need to be picked up by their parents or designee must sign out with the front office. Any student with a medical problem (i.e. seizures, asthma, diabetes, or heart problems) should report the problem to the MA. Students who require medication during the school day must have their medication brought in by a parent/guardian in the original current prescription bottle and must have a parental medication release signed by their parent/guardian and the prescribing physician. This form is available in the health office. Arizona law requires documentary proof of immunity against certain childhood diseases for students entering Arizona schools for the first time. With some exceptions, students subject to this requirement who lack documentary proof may enroll but not attend school until proof is provided.

Planners

All students will be issued a planner. They will be expected to have their planner for each class. Students are responsible for writing the daily assignments for each class in their planner. Students must have a planner. If lost, students may purchase a replacement planner for \$5.00.

School Supplies

Listed below are the supplies that your student will need throughout the school year:

- spiral notebooks
- pencil pouch
- two-pocket folders
- loose-leaf paper
- pencils
- ink pens (red, blue, and black)
- highlighters (different colors)
- colored pencils

Students are not allowed to have sharpies or permanent markers. Students must replace/replenish their school supplies as needed throughout the school year.

Some teachers may require other specific supplies for certain classes. This information will be communicated at Meet-the-Teacher Night or during the first week of school.

Listed below is a list of supplies teachers could use in their classrooms. If you could assist with purchasing any of these supplies, please bring them to the front office.

- Elmer's glue
- highlighters
- colored pencils
- Expo 2 low odor dry erase markers
- copy paper
- hand sanitizer
- crayons
- loose leaf paper
- pens (red, black, or blue ink)
- pencils
- Kleenex

Textbooks

Class sets of textbooks will exist for Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes. Each student will receive a math textbook, and 8th graders have access to a social studies book (online or hard copy). Various textbooks will be available online for students to use away from school. The online information will be communicated to students at the beginning of the school year. Class sets of textbooks will be used in various elective classes.

Transportation

Students who walk, ride a bicycle, ride with another student, or ride a school bus are expected to exhibit good behavior. Parents must use the vehicle drop-off and pick-up zone for students (enter the south entrance off Pecan Creek Drive and exit the north exit off Pecan Creek Drive). Bus transportation information will be mailed the week of July 18th and will be available to students living outside a one mile radius of the school. Bus route information may be obtained by calling the district transportation department (starting July 25th) at 480-987-5309. When you call this number, please choose dispatching (extension 1) or routing (extension 2).

Enclosed with this back-to-school information is a copy of the main dates on the school calendar.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Mark A. Mauro
Principal

**Combs Middle School
School Calendar
2016-2017**

July

26-29 Bookstore Days

August

2 Meet-the-Teacher (5:30 pm – gymnasium)

3 First Day of School

September

5 Labor Day (no school)

15-16 Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:00 pm dismissal)

October

10-14 Fall Break (no school)

17 Professional Development (no school)

18 Second Quarter Begins

November

11 Veteran's Day (no school)

24-25 Thanksgiving Break (no school)

December

19-20 Semester Exams (1:00 pm dismissal)

21-30 Winter Break (no school)

January

2-3 Winter Break (no school)

4 Professional Development (no school)

5 Second Semester Begins

16 Martin Luther King Day (no school)

February

20 President's Day (no school)

23-24 Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:00 pm dismissal)

March

13-17 Spring Break (no school)

20 Professional Development (no school)

21 Fourth Quarter Begins

April

14 Spring Holiday (no school)

May

22-23 Semester Exams (1:00 pm dismissal)

23 Last Day of School