

DOHERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Students and Families:

Welcome back. There are so many things to look forward to this year, beginning with being together! I look forward to having you return to school and the many wonderful learning experiences we'll have throughout the year.

Getting Ready for the First Day

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 1. Our *new* school hours are 8:15-2:50. Students may enter school beginning at 8:05. Again, this year *masks are mandatory for all students, staff and visitors to our schools regardless of vaccination status.* Additional information can be found on the DMS website.

Prior to the first day of school families with 6th grade students will receive a separate communication from one of our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders (and advisors). These grade 8 students are trained mentors and have organized a special *first day of middle school* for sixth graders. On the first day of school **Grade 6** students will meet their WEB leaders and proceed to the youth center for some opening activities. **Grade 7 and 8** students will enter the school and proceed directly upstairs to their homeroom class. Staff will be throughout the building greeting and helping students find their way.

Mark your Calendars!

We will be hosting a **New to Andover Family Orientation on Friday, August 27**. This is an opportunity for families who have recently moved to Andover to meet with administration and learn more about our school and community. A separate invitation with details, including information for a student tour will be sent.

Thursday, September 9 is our annual *Back-to-School Night*. This event starts at 6:30 p.m. and is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers. A separate invitation with details will be sent.

September 22 is *School Photo Day*. Materials will be distributed to prior to that date.

A Word About Technology

We would also like to remind families that a very beneficial way to stay up-to-date with middle school life is through the use of our website <http://www.aps1.net/109/Doherty-Middle-School> and the Blackboard Connect system. Each venue is a good place to find announcements from the school and district and on Sundays, families receive a weekly email with upcoming events. **The first Sunday email will be sent on August 29 at 5:30 p.m.**

We look forward to working together for a successful academic year. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,
Robin L. Wilson

RESPECT * RESPONSIBILITY * CIVILITY - *The Doherty Way*