



Parent Update
August 15, 2011

There is only one week left before school starts – Everyone at MSA hopes that the kids are getting ready, and are excited about the upcoming school year. We know parents are ready for them to return to school!! There is a lot of information here, but please note the following important items carefully:

- The school store is open this week – check the website for hours of operation. Please make sure that your child is ready for the first day of school. Uniforms are required every day of the year. Also, be sure to check out the new items that the store is selling this year, including hoodie sweatshirts, which can be worn during the school day...
- If you have any old uniform shirts or pants that your child has outgrown, please consider donating them to the school. We need used uniforms for a variety of reasons, and we appreciate any that are donated to the school. Thank you to those who have donated items to the school already.
- Schedules will be handed out to students on the first day of school – students will receive them first thing on Monday morning. Students should bring in general supplies for the first day of class and any items they may need. Most students got their #1 choice for elective classes this year, although scheduling was tight this year. We apologize for the delay in getting out the schedules.
- Due to some delays in the construction, the new building will not be ready for the opening of school. When you arrive on Monday, August 22nd, there will be a fresh new parking lot and a lot of construction going on at the new building, but that won't slow us down. The construction will be separate from the main school building and things will run as normal. Please be accommodating as we may have changes in traffic flow or movement through the campus due to the construction. These will be communicated out as soon as we can, but as with any construction project, changes can happen at the spur of the moment. We appreciate all your understanding and support as we get ready to open the new building.
- Anyone visiting the school during the school day, please park in the visitor parking in the second row of parking. Cars will no longer be allowed to drive up to the front door of the school, due to student traffic changes. There is plenty of parking in the visitor area. Thank you for your attention to this matter
- As returning students and parents know, the beginning of the school year at dismissal can be a little congested and often slow, as parents, bus drivers, and students learn the dismissal/pick-up procedures and routines. With this in mind, please be understanding as we work out the kinks in the routines at the start of the year. Please be prepared for rain!! I have not had a start of the school year that has not been rainy here in Florida. Please make sure your child has a poncho and/or an umbrella in their backpack.

- We recommend at the start of the year that any student who is able to take the bus home takes the bus at the start of the year. Again, the traffic can be heavy at the start of the year, and it is almost guaranteed to be rainy. We can get students on the bus, dry, and on their way home relatively quickly. The parent pick-up line traditionally takes a bit longer at the start of the year, but always works its way out within a week or so. All students being picked up MUST be picked up in the parent pick-up circle in front of the school.
- We want to give everyone a “heads-up” that the City of Palmetto will be beginning a new road project starting on September 6, 2011. Starting right after Labor Day, the city will be re-working the traffic at the corner where Haben Boulevard turns. Right at the corner where the entrance to the Hammocks is, the city will be installing a traffic circle. This project is expected to last about 6 months to complete the work. It is recommended that if you are traveling to the school, you should go to Route 301 and enter from the north side of the school (by the bank and the old DeSears building). The traffic from the south end of Haben (coming from 7-11 and the Civic Center) will be slow at best, and at times the road will be closed to any through traffic. Thank you for your attention to this important item!!
- A reminder to all New Students – We will be holding new student orientations as follows:

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 – Grades 7-12
Thursday, August 18, 2011 – Grade 6

Both events begin at 6:00, and will include a presentation by the school as well as the student's being able to walk their schedules, meet some teachers, and get a head start to the year. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Our mission at Manatee School For the Arts is to provide every student with an outstanding learning experience. From the academics to the arts, we strive to stretch and motivate students to learn more, work harder, and perform better than they ever have before. As we approach the upcoming school year, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

We thank you for your confidence in the school, and choosing Manatee School For the Arts. We hope that everyone had a great summer and has a great start to the school year. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to help make the learning experience even better for your child.

Remember – the first day of school is August 22, 2011!!

Upcoming Events

August

17	Grades 7-12 New Student Orientation	6:00
18	Grade 6 New Student Orientations	6:00
22	First Day of School	9:45-4:35

September

5	No School – Labor Day	
20	Middle School “Back to School” Night	6:00
22	High School “Back to School” Night	6:00

October
14

No School – Records Day

For more information, check out our website at www.msfta.org