Prairie Knolls Middle School
September Falcon Flyer

Important Dates
Sept. 2- No School
Sept. 9- Music Booster Meeting
Sept. 9 – PTO Meeting
Sept. 23- BOE Meeting
Sept. 24-Book Fair Family Night

Hallway display to welcome students.
Dr. Haug’s Message

Our 2019-2020 school year has begun and (with the help of a week earlier start date) our students are well underway with active learning experiences in their classrooms. Whether it is learning the skills needed for scientific inquiry, or taking an article and analyzing it for point of view and argumentation, or simply reviewing mathematic principles in anticipation of understanding algebraic processes, I can promise you that your children are being challenged and engaged by the staff here at PKMS.

Speaking of our staff, I am happy to introduce four new staff members who have joined us full-time here at PKMS this school year:

- Mr. Joshua Bickett – Daytime Custodian,
- Ms. Jenna Jensen – 7 Red Math / Pre-Algebra,
- Ms. Morgan Nosalik – 7 Silver Math,

In addition, Mrs. Stephanie Sammarco – Physical Education, who joined the staff at the end of last school year, has returned in a full time teaching role. We are very excited to have these individuals on staff to continue serving our student population.

We were happy to see so many families at our Back To School night on August 29th. We hope to see more of our families at the events that we have planned for the upcoming school year. Parent involvement is among the strongest factors influencing a student’s academic success.

Make sure that you stay up to date on the happenings at PKMS by checking out the contents of this Falcon Flyer (our monthly newsletter), the PKMS Principal’s Message, our 8to18 Athletics page, our school website, and our Twitter pages; @PKMS Principal and @falcon_ap. There is so much for us to share about our school, our students and our community.

Here’s to a great school year Falcons!
News from Nurse Tracy Grote
Please remember October 15, 2019 is the deadline for Sixth grade physicals and updated immunizations. The State of Illinois requires exclusion from school if these requirements aren’t met. Soon you will receive a Skyward email notification if your student is still out of compliance for a physical and/or immunizations. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to review your student’s health records, please feel free to call the Health Office.

Scholastic Book Fair will be open in the school library from September 19 – 27. Encourage your students to come in during the school day to browse the titles, or stop by our Family Night on September 24 from 3 – 6:30 p.m. to shop with the whole family. You can also take a look at the online fair and check out the advantages of using eWallet by clicking the link below.

https://www.scholastic.com/bf/prairieknotcliasmiddleschool

In an effort to make communication more efficient and effective, District 301 has created a Digital Bulletin Board page on the district website. All approved flyers will be posted under “Communications” on the main district page or at this link:

Digital Bulletin Board

Jazz Band Sign Up
The PKMS Jazz Band is going to be starting up the week of Labor Day! If your student plays any concert band instrument or drum set, guitar, bass, or piano, they can play with the Jazz Band. Students involved need basic music reading skills. This after school activity is open to 6th and 7th graders and meets one day a week after school from 3:00-4:00. The day it will occur is based on the availability of those who sign up. Students will be exploring and performing music of many different genres such as Blues, Swing, Funk, Latin, and Rock. To sign up, fill out this form: https://forms.gle/SmV9zyQoser637zKA
Central Community Unit School District 301 will destroy special education records from school years 2013-14 and prior of students who graduated, transferred, or otherwise permanently withdrew from special education services.

Special education records may include reports of psychological and social work evaluations, multidisciplinary planning conferences, annual reviews, copies of Individual Education Programs and other relevant information.

If a parent or student wants those records, they should call the Student Support Services & Special Education Office at 847-464-5863 before October 25, 2019.

When your phone goes in the trash and the team rallies together!
Assistant Principal’s Corner

Social media is one of the fastest growing communication platforms, and this is the time when many students begin having the responsibilities that go along with having their own devices. During the first week of school, teachers taught our students about digital citizenship (please feel free to access the “Digital You” presentation on the PKMS homepage), and the school’s expectations regarding how students utilize their school issued devices and personal devices, specifically in regards to safety. We recognize that we cannot always be with your children, and parents often contact us for advice regarding the monitoring of their children’s social media. I have listed below my top three favorite pieces of advice for parents:

1. Follow your child on social media. Be a silent follower. Check up on them regularly, and ask questions you have in person. Ask questions about who they are following, and who follows them. If they cannot tell you the first and last name of the person you are inquiring about, and how they know them outside of social media, they may not be the safest person to follow.

2. Do not permit your child to go to sleep with access to their device. Having access to personal devices during sleep time opens children up to unmonitored device usage, and the potential for sleep deprivation.

3. Many social media apps track location! This means that each time a message is sent anyone following your child can see where they are located. If the account is public, anyone on the web can see where your son or daughter is. Check your child’s social media accounts to insure they do not have their location being tracked. This can be done by going into the settings on each account and disabling the location tracker. Many location trackers are hidden under the “Privacy” setting.

Stay safe everyone,

Alexandra Paszt
Assistant Principal, PKMS
The PE teachers are excited to start the new school year and teach the importance of being fit and healthy! We look forward to teaching healthy concepts and the fitness components. Each year the PE department organizes and runs our annual fundraiser called “The Marathon.” In a couple of weeks your child will be coming home with Marathon papers and pledge sheets. Please ask your child about these and let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to a fun and successful 2019-2020 fundraiser and school year!

ELA- This school year we jumped right out of the gate starting with genres and formats. Moving forward, we will be starting a graphic novel titled *Roller Girl* in which students will be analyzing how the author, Victoria Jamieson, uses her illustrations to help the reader make meaning of the text. We will also transition into a graphic novel book club. We are reading aloud the verse novel, *Other Words for Home*. Students are encouraged to visualize the text by drawing what they are visualizing in their graffiti book. Lastly, students will begin working on a narrative towards the end of the unit. We look forward to a great year!

Math- What a great start to 6th grade! In math, students are starting the year off learning about operations with decimals and fractions, least common multiple, greatest common factor, the distributive property, and how we can use these operations in daily life. *Try it! How many 1/8 pound servings are in three 1/2 pounds of chocolate?*

Science- How often do you make an observation? Do you use this information for a purpose? 6th Grade Scientists here at PK are learning that observations help to make inferences, and that it is likely they “infer” everyday! In our Science and Engineering Unit we are laying the foundation for the rest of the year. This includes: observations and inferences, using the metric system to measure length, width, height, mass, volume, and density, forming hypotheses, and discussions about how variables affect outcomes inside and outside the classroom. Through the first few days we have observed the students and can infer this is going to be an AMAZING school year...STAY TUNED!

SS- The year has gotten off to a great start! This month in SS we will be delving into Ancient China’s history and learning about its geography, philosophies and achievements. Students will be learning how history is setting the stage to repeat itself throughout this year’s historical studies.
7th Grade Team News

7th grade ELA is excited about starting the year! Students have chosen a book they want to read and will be getting time in class each day to read. They will participate in book clubs once a week to discuss their books in class. Our first read aloud for the year will cross over with 6th grade, and on Oct. 16, the author of this book will be coming to talk with students! We look forward to getting into some writing activities and starting our first thematic unit focused on determination soon.

7th grade math students are starting the school year with the rational numbers unit. In this unit, students will be able to use all four operations (add, subtract, multiply and divide) with positive and negative numbers and then transition to using all four operations with decimals and fractions in real world contexts. Students will also learn how to convert fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions. Integers and rational numbers are the foundation for future math units and even in real world situations!

In social studies, students are starting their year taking off from 6th grade by learning how the Renaissance led to the Age of Exploration and all of the worldwide changes that came from that. Students will then be discovering why and how America was settled and the 13 colonies were formed. The 13 colonies were the beginning of the nation we live in today and students will be learning about their formation, life and government in the colonies, as well as the beginnings of the tension between them and Great Britain. We will also be starting our read aloud, Johnny Tremain, which will help students make connections between life in the colonies and how British rule impacted that.

The 7th grade science students are starting the year collecting data and working through the scientific process with their grow animal experiment. The students will also be exploring what characteristics make something a living organism. During the month of September, the 7th graders will delve into the Kingdom of Protists and use microscopes to explore a variety of microorganisms.
PKMS Spirit Wear for the 2019/2020 school year is available to order online!

Follow the link above to order. The Spirit Wear store will only be open until September 20th so order now! Please order sizes carefully—all sales are final.
PKMS Traffic Pattern

Thank you to all of our families for supporting our efforts at a safe, efficient traffic pattern for the drop-off and pick-up of students. By using the full circular sidewalk in front of the building, we are able to reduce the back-up that has occurred in previous years on Nesler Road. Please make sure that you pull all the way forward around the circular drive and have the students exit your vehicles on the sidewalk-side of your car.

In an effort to keep traffic flowing and reduce the back up on Nesler, we have a traffic pattern for cars entering the property. Cars should go right at the cones, around the parking lot and then turn right toward the turnaround in front of the school. Please follow the diagram above. Thank you for your cooperation.

Additionally, we ask that you do not drop your child off prior to 7:45 a.m. and that you do not park in the football parking lot and have your child walk to your car. This is a safety issue for students as the lot is very full of cars at the end of the day. Students will not be allowed to exit the building at Door #26 (the door facing this lot). Please exercise caution and patience for the benefit of all of our students!
Early Childhood Screenings

Child Find is an ongoing process through which all children, from birth through 21 (i.e., through the day before the student’s 22nd birthday), or who may be eligible for early intervention, or who may be in need of special education services are identified, located and evaluated. Each school district is responsible for actively locating, identifying and evaluating all children who live within the district boundaries who may qualify to receive special education and/or related services.

Screenings will be held on the following dates at the following locations. Children that are 3 to 5 years old that reside in D301 can be screened at any location. Children birth to 3 see information below*.

- August 15, 2019-Howard B Thomas Grade School
- September 26, 2019-Country Trails Elementary School
- October 24, 2019-Prairie View Grade School
- November 21, 2019-Howard B Thomas Grade School
- December 19, 2019-Country Trails Elementary School
- January 23, 2020-Howard B Thomas Grade School
- February 13, 2020-Prairie View Grade School
- March 12, 2020-Country Trails Elementary School
- April 16, 2020-Prairie View Grade School
- May 7, 2020-Howard B Thomas Grade School

The following areas are sample behaviors that might indicate that a preschool child may be eligible for special education services:

- Does not talk or communicate as well as others his/her age
- Is always on the fringe of activities, never really involved
- Finds it difficult to play with other children
- Has difficulty with feeding, dressing and toileting
- Has difficulty putting together a puzzle, matching shapes/patterns
- Has difficulty sitting still while listening to a short story or watching television
- Does not know the names of common objects
- Cannot jump in place, appears clumsy, and/or walks into objects

If you notice that your child has displayed any of the above difficulties, or if you have other concerns, please call 847-464-5863 to arrange an Early Childhood Screening.

For more information visit the Early Childhood website at [https://central301.net/early-childhood/](https://central301.net/early-childhood/)

*For children birth to 3 years of age, please contact DayOneNetwork at 630-879-2277
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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPICY OR PLAIN CHICKEN NUGGETS (5) w/Dinner Roll</strong></td>
<td><strong>ROUND 5&quot; CHEESE PIZZA</strong></td>
<td><strong>MINI PANCAKES w/Chicken Sausage Pattie and Maple Syrup Cup</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OVEN FRENCH FRIES MIXED VEGETABLES CINNAMON APPLESauce</strong></td>
<td><strong>FRESH GARDEN SALAD w/Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Sliced Cucumbers w/Assorted Salad Dressing TENDER PEAS</strong></td>
<td><strong>CREAMY FRUIT YOGURT HASH BROWN PATTIE (1) TROPICAL TWIST JUICE BOX</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CHEESE QUESADILLA Or CHICKEN QUESADILLA w/Salsa &amp; Sour Cream</strong></td>
<td><strong>BREADED CHICKEN PATTIE OR SPICY CHICKEN PATTIE On A Wg Bun</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHEESE FRENCH BREAD PIZZA</strong></td>
<td><strong>ORANGE CHICKEN Over Brown Rice</strong></td>
<td><strong>TWIN BEEF TACOS w/Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa</strong></td>
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<td><strong>REFRIED BEANS CRUNCHY CELERY STICKS CHILLED PEACHES</strong></td>
<td><strong>FRESH GARDEN SALAD w/Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Sliced Cucumbers w/Assorted Salad Dressing SEASONED CORN</strong></td>
<td><strong>VEGETABLE TRAY with Broccoli-Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Pea Pods w/FF Ranch Dip GREEN BEANS</strong></td>
<td><strong>TENDER PEAS CARROTEENIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHOLE KERNAL CORN FIESTA BLACK BEANS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MEATBALL SUBMARINE with Shredded Mozzarella Cheese</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAKED POTATO topped with Broccoli &amp; Cheese Sauce w/Dinner Roll</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHEESE &amp; PEPPERONI PIZZA BAGELS (4)</strong></td>
<td><strong>AMERICAN SUB Made with Ham, Turkey and Cheese</strong></td>
<td><strong>JUICY ORANGE WEDGES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CRUNCHY CELERY STICKS SEASONED CORN MIXED FRUIT CUP</strong></td>
<td><strong>BEEF NACHOS w/Supreme</strong></td>
<td><strong>FRESH GARDEN SALAD w/Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Sliced Cucumbers w/Assorted Salad Dressing TENDER PEAS</strong></td>
<td><strong>CRISPY TATER TOTS VEGETABLE TRAY with Cauliflower-Baby Carrot-Cherry Tomatoes w/FF Ranch Dip</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPICY OR PLAIN CHICKEN NUGGETS (5) w/Dinner Roll</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FRESH APPLE SLICES CHILLED PEACHES</strong></td>
<td><strong>FRESH FRUITS</strong></td>
<td><strong>MASHERED POTATOES w/Gravy TENDER PEAS</strong></td>
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**Week of September 2, 2019**

- **Monday**: Labor Day Holiday
- **Tuesday**: No School
- **Wednesday**: Spicy or Plain Chicken Nuggets (5) with Dinner Roll
- **Thursday**: Mini Pancakes with Chicken Sausage Pattie and Maple Syrup Cup
- **Friday**: Twin Beef Tacos with Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa