



March 1, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and *Future Vista Heights & New Saratoga Springs Middle School* Students,

We are excited that you will be joining us for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We want to share this information to help you experience a pleasant and successful transition. **Please read this letter together with your student.**

If you are currently a student in the Alpine School District, the packet you are receiving contains everything necessary to register for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This packet includes;

1. Registration/Class Request form
2. List of Course Descriptions
3. Instructions for Skyward Course Requests ***(Please note that every student MUST know their Skyward Login and Password. You will not be able to log in and choose your classes without this information. You cannot log in under your parents' account. If you do not know this information, please see your elementary school secretary to retrieve it. The middle school does not have access to your password; it must be given at your current elementary school.) The Skyward Portal will be Open NOW until March 11, 2019.***
4. Vaccination Clinic flyer
5. List of Required Immunizations and the New Law for Exemptions for 7th graders. If your student has received his/her 7th grade Immunizations, which are: 2nd Varicella, TDAP, and 1 Meningococcal, please bring that most up-to-date record for our nurse. Our school nurse will be available both Registration Nights to accept 7th grade immunization records, exemptions, and to answer any questions.

Additionally, *(If there have been changes to Guardianship Status for your student, please be prepared to provide Vista Heights or The New Saratoga Springs Middle School with a copy of any Legal Guardianship paperwork).*

**\*Please complete the paperwork and return it to Vista Heights during our 7th Grade Registration Nights. Please choose one of the Registration Nights listed below to attend.**

<b>Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 6:30 pm</b>
Come See Vista Heights!	Come See Vista Heights! *Health Department Clinic will be on site offering Immunizations. Many Insurances accepted and cash paying recipients welcome too!

## REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

<i>Option #1: "FAST TRACK"</i>	<i>Option #2</i>
Step #1 Follow the enclosed instructions to input schedule request into Skyward at home using your student's username and password. Print your schedule request.	Step #1 Come to Vista Heights on one of the registration nights.
Step #2 Bring a copy of your finished request to complete the registration process at Vista Heights on one of the registration nights.	Step #2 Go over your class schedule request and submit to a counselor who will enter your requests.
Step #4 Use the "Fast Track" line to submit copy of your schedule request. <i>(The FAST TRACK will minimize your time in line!)</i>	Step #4 Counselor will print out your schedule request and attach to the registration form to be submitted.

**Important to Note:** Advanced classes such as GT, Immersion, Read 180 and Intermediate Math AC, will **not** be available for request online, **and** require a teacher's approval. Resource/IEP classes are also not available for request online. A counselor will need to make those changes. Please make a note of these requests on your registration form.

***Students,*** many things will be new and different as you enter middle school. You will find that if you have a positive attitude towards school and learning and become involved, you will enjoy and benefit from your middle school experience. We will work diligently to provide you with the best possible academic and extra-curricular experiences, and expect all students to put forth their best effort. Together we can make your middle school experience outstanding.

***Parents/Guardians,*** we are excited to have your student begin middle school. We feel that the key to your student's success is the establishment of a true partnership between school, parents/guardians, and student. Seventh grade is one of the most important years in your student's life. This is the biggest educational transition that your student will experience while in school. As a parent/guardian, you can assist by doing several things:

1. Attending 7<sup>th</sup> grade registration, Back-To-School Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and other activities.
2. Monitoring your student's school work and attendance daily.
3. Use Skyward as a way to track assignments on the internet. At the beginning of the school year, you will be given the passwords which will allow you to access the site.
4. Contacting teachers with concerns over academic progress on homework or behavior.
5. Monitoring and putting great emphasis on citizenship grades.

### **Vista Values: Respect & Responsibility (New Saratoga Middle School's Values TBA)**

Everyone with a school community has a unique role. Although those specific roles may differ slightly, we expect everyone to have a common goal and focus. "Vista Values" are the expectations for each individual in this school community. All behaviors and attitudes fall under two simple themes: Respect and Responsibility. As our core focus is to provide a safe and effective learning environment for all student, it is important to maintain behaviors and attitudes that fall in line with these two themes wherever you are in the building and in whatever you are doing. Always be aware of your role within the school and how you can demonstrate our "Vista Values". Specific details of the Vista Values will be in the student's handbook that they will receive the first week of school.

### **Study Habits**

Good study habits will help you be a more successful student. Now is a great time to develop good study habits. Make these last few months of sixth grade beneficial for you. We suggest that you follow these simple guidelines:

1. Have a quiet place to study away from radio or T.V. It is best to work in an area that is accessible to parents/guardians, so they can help and work can be monitored.
2. Develop a regular study schedule that works around your family activities.
3. Plan ahead. Study and prepare materials gradually. Avoid cramming.
4. Ask questions. Teachers are willing to clarify assignments or material. Ask your parents/guardians to help in reviewing materials to prepare for tests.

### **Back to School Night**

There will be a Back to School Night before the school year begins in August. This is a night that you and your student can meet their teachers, pay fees, check their lockers and walk around the school. The date and time will be available on our school website the beginning of August.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Day**

We will be having a 7<sup>th</sup> grade day on August 19, 2019 from 8:15 am to 11:30 am. Buses will be running that day. This is a great day for only 7<sup>th</sup> graders to attend where they will go to all 8 of their classes to meet their teachers and have an orientation on lockers, lunches, Flight time and other important information that will help alleviate those first day jitters.

### **FLIGHT Time: (New Saratoga Springs Middle School TIME TBA)**

**FLIGHT Time** is a 30 minute segment of the school day right before lunch. During **FLIGHT Time** all students are expected to do homework, study, or read. Students who are current, and do not need remediation, will be able to participate in occasional enrichment activities.

### **Electronic Devices**

Students may carry electronic communication devices (cell phones & iPods), but these devices must be turned off and out of sight during class. The school will not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone, iPod, or any other electronic device. We strongly encourage you to leave these devices at home. Electronic devices may be confiscated if used at inappropriate times.

### **Lockers**

All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will share a locker. For 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, lockers are optional. It is important to not share your combination with anyone else. Do not leave valuables in lockers. You will be able to sign up for a locker partner during the summer. See attached flyer for details.

### **P.E. Clothing**

Appropriate clothing is required in all physical education classes. Students will have the option to purchase a t-shirt and shorts with the school logo on it during fee registration and the open house night for approximately \$15.00. If you prefer, your student may wear clothes from home which includes a gray t-shirt and black shorts. (New Saratoga Springs Middle School TBA) Appropriate footwear is also needed. Daily showers are encouraged and a district approved fee is charged for the use of school towels and locks at the beginning of each year.

### **Buses**

A map with marked routes will be posted on the school district website at [bus.alpinedistrict.org](http://bus.alpinedistrict.org). They will also be posted in the front office before school starts in the fall. You may call the Alpine School District Transportation Office for additional information at 801-610-8852.

### **What if someone gets sick at school?**

There is a sickroom in the office for brief visits. Students that are ill will be able to phone home and parents will be asked to transport the student home.

### **Excusing Tardies or Absences**

Parents/guardians may email in their student's absence at [vhmsattendance@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:vhmsattendance@alpinedistrict.org). (New Saratoga Springs Middle School TBA) If sending a written excuse, please include in your excuse notes **the student's full name, the date and time** the note was written, the date of the excused absence/tardy, and parent's/guardian's signature. Absences can only be excused 10 calendar days back.

### **Homework Requests**

Homework requests will be taken by our student advocates, after your student has been out of school for 3 or more days. Please call with your request before 10:00 a.m.

### **What if you need help?**

Principals and counselors are available throughout the school days. Appointments may be set for longer conversations. All meetings will be kept strictly confidential.

### **Lunch**

All students must remain on campus during lunch. Students may select from a variety of menu choices each day. Ala carte items are also available. We have 2 lunches and they are dependent on the location of your 3<sup>rd</sup> period classes. A list will be posted at the Back to School night.

### **Classes**

Your schedule will consist of required courses and electives. The classes you will be taking in 7<sup>th</sup> grade are:

English (full year)	Physical Education (1 semester)
Math (full year)	Fine Arts ( 1 semester)
CTE (full year)	Electives (3)
Integrated Science (full year)	
Utah History (1 semester)	

### **Dress Code**

Students should always be neat and clean. Any clothing considered inappropriate will not be allowed. Please dress tastefully. Students will be sent home if they fail to honor our dress code requirements. As you purchase school clothes remember that shorts and skirts should be no more than 4" above the knee. Slashed jeans may not reveal skin above the knee. Please do not purchase or wear clothing which advertises drugs, alcohol or tobacco. This clothing is against district policy. Pants that are excessively baggy should be avoided; also no midriff shirts or sleeveless tops should be worn in school. Hats are not allowed during school hours.

### **Immunizations**

Per state law in order to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, a student **must have** proof of receiving the following immunizations:

- 3 Hepatitis B (*already a requirement for this age, should already be on file*).
- 2 Hepatitis A
- 1 Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) booster or Tdap (Td/Pertussis) (*given at age 11-12 yrs, kindergarten dose does not count as booster for 7<sup>th</sup> grade requirement. The booster must have been given after 9/1/15 to count*).
- 2 Varicella (Chickenpox) (*Previous history of chickenpox disease is OK, parent must submit written statement or shot is required. If a student is already 13 years old, 2 doses are required*).
- 1 Meningococcal

EXEMPTIONS: All Students entering 7th Grade choosing EXEMPTION to immunizations for religious or personal reasons, MUST fill out a NEW appropriate Utah Department of Health Exemption form. This new requirement was effective as of July 1, 2018. Please bring completed form/certificate to Vista Heights for both schools. Medical Exemptions require a note from a physician stating why student is Exempt AND an online certificate through <http://www.immunize-utah.org>. This is free.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade students will not receive their class schedule and will be unable to start school without proof of current immunizations or current exemption.**

This information will help you get a good start in middle school. Other important information will be provided as you start school in the fall. Planning to be a successful middle school student is not an accident. Begin now! We look forward to seeing you next year and please let us know if we can assist you with one of the most exciting transitions of your life.

Sincerely,

Todd Dawson  
Vista Heights Middle School Principal

Mark Whitaker  
New Saratoga Springs Middle School