

March 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Future Vista Heights Students,

We are excited that you will be joining us for 7th grade. We want to share this information to help you experience a pleasant and successful transition. Please read this letter together as we have tried to anticipate areas where you may have questions or concerns.

The packet you are receiving contains everything necessary to register for 7th grade. This packet includes; registration/class request form, list of course descriptions, guardianship status form, vaccination clinic flyer, immunization card, and instructions for Skyward course requests. **(Please be prepared to provide Vista Heights with a copy of any guardianship paperwork, [example, divorce decree, foster child status, etc.])** All paperwork is required to enroll your student. Complete all of the paperwork and return it to Vista Heights for our **mandatory 7th Grade Registration Nights**. Your elementary school has a suggested date for attendance, but you may attend any time that is convenient for you.

Wednesday, March 8 th 3:00 – 6:00 pm	Thursday, March 9 th 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Saratoga Shores Sage Hills Springside Charter School/Home School	Thunder Ridge Riverview Harvest Charter School/Home School

(Please note that every student MUST know their Skyward Log in 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.)

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

<i>Option #1: “FAST TRACK”</i>	<i>Option #2</i>
Step #1 Complete all registration paperwork	Step #1 Complete all registration paperwork
Step #2 Follow the enclosed instructions to input schedule request into Skyward at home using your student’s username and password. Print your schedule request.	Step #2 Come to Vista Heights on one of the registration nights to submit paperwork.
Step #3 Bring a copy of your finished request <u>and all</u> registration paperwork to complete the registration process at Vista Heights on one of the registration nights.	Step #3 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 all paperwork.	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, 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 are anxious 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, 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, 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, you can assist by doing several things:

1. Attending 7th grade registration, Back-To-School Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and other activities.
2. Monitoring your student's school work and attendance daily. We will provide your student with a planner for daily reporting to you. We will train your student on how to use this system, but it is important for you to provide the follow-up.
3. Using 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.

School Guidelines and Expectations

One of our major goals is to create an atmosphere for learning to help you be successful. We have six basic guidelines to follow that will help you do this:

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared to work.
3. Respect the learning environment.
4. Respect others' rights and property.
5. Respect school.
6. Comply with dress code.

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, 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 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.

7th Grade Day

We will be having a 7th grade day on August 21, 2016 from 8:15 am to 11:30 am. Buses will be running that day. This is a great day for only 7th graders to attend where they will go to all 8 of their classes to meet their teachers and have an orientation on lockers, lunches, Teal time and other important information that will help alleviate those first day jitters.

TEAL Time

TEAL Time is a 30 minute segment of the school day right before lunch. During **TEAL Time** students who need help with remediation will be able to get help from their teachers in the area(s) they are struggling. Students who are current and do not need remediation will be able to participate in 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 students will share a locker. It is important to not share your combination with anyone else. You will be able to sign up for a locker partner during your registration. Do not leave valuables in lockers.

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 \$15.00. If you prefer, your student may wear clothes from home which includes a gray t-shirt and black shorts. 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. 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 801-763-7072.

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

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. The parent/guardian may also call in their student's absence. Absences can only be excused 10 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.

Classes

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

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

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 closer to the knee than the thigh. Slashed jeans may not reveal skin above the knee. Please do not purchase 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. Remember this rule of thumb: dress can dictate behavior.

Immunizations

Per state law in order to attend the 7th 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 7th grade requirement. The booster must have been given after 9/1/06 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

7th grade students will not receive their class schedule and will be unable to start school without proof of current immunization.

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
Principal