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8/28/2017

Dear SOF Families,

As the summer comes to a close and the temperature starts to drop even a degree or two it's time to start looking ahead to a brand new school year. We have been busy over the summer with getting the building prepared and meeting to discuss curriculum and pedagogy and we look forward to welcoming you all back and greeting some of you for the first time. We want to update you on some new changes and remind you of some beginning of the school year protocols.

We are very happy to report that the Department of Education has finally reached an agreement with the building developers, Toll Brothers, and the air conditioning they gifted to School of the Future will begin in the gym, cafeteria and auditorium in the next two weeks. Work will be done after school so there will be no interruption of learning during the school day.

Also we are very excited to announce that SOF has created a new music room in the basement/lower level and we will be building upon the music program in the middle school this year. In order to create this new room we had to cut the locker room in half. So, moving forward the High School students will not have lockers in the basement. We have found that most of the high school students did not use them. If students have any valuables they need to keep secure, they are more than welcome to keep them in either HS Director Fanning's office or Dean Sokol's office.

This year, in agreement with the teachers, we are changing the school times so that there will be more time given after official classes for MS students to get started with homework and for HS students to receive extra help. The middle school will begin each day at 8:20am and the high school at 8:25am. The school day ends for HS at 2:50pm, for MS on Monday through Thursday at 3:20 and 2:50 on Friday. The after school program for the Middle School will begin at 3:20 Monday through Thursday and 2:50 on Fridays.

We will be building upon our Restorative Justice program this year. All 6-10th grade students will participate in small, grade level groups called Circles once a week to discuss issues arising in our community, current events, issues impacting teens and to connect with one another. We will build upon this structure and these relationships to address conflicts between students and restorative consequences when people have harmed the community,

We encourage you to bookmark the sof website calendar as all school information will be placed on that calendar. You can find the calendar at [www.sof.edu](http://www.sof.edu). You can also use the website to contact teachers and administration.

The following is some opening school day information

Thursday, September, 7th follows regular timing for the first day of school.

Middle School: 8:20am -3:20pm with lunch at 11:15.

High School: 8:25am - 2:50pm with lunch at 12:10pm.

6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to spend the first hour of school with their children in the gym.

All Middle School students should bring lunch or lunch money (\$1.25) or lunch numbers if they have them, as out lunch will not be available on the first day. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to go for lunch on the second day provided they bring back their school forms signed.

Our Parents Association will be on hand in the lobby and on the gym floor lobby greeting new parents and accepting donations of school supplies to the school. SOF can provide a Spanish and Mandarin translation if a parent would like one. One note to new parents - it may look chaotic on the first day, but please rest assured there is a method to the madness.

Metro cards are given out on the first day of school. Students will receive them from their advisor. MS student lockers will be assigned on the second day. If a student wishes not to carry something heavy home, they can leave it with their advisor or teacher.

Throughout the year, you will be receiving e-blasts from our parent in charge of communication, the wonderful Aara Memzi. If you feel you do not receive e-mail updates please contact Aara at [mommymenzi@yahoo.com](mailto:mommymenzi@yahoo.com) to have her take your contact info. If you have more questions you can contact our family coordinator Jaimee Rutman at [jrutman@sof.edu](mailto:jrutman@sof.edu).

We look forward to seeing all of you and your children soon..

Sincerely,

Stacy Goldstein  
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