



127 East 22nd Street | New York, NY 10010 | phone: 212 475 8086 | fax: 212 475 9273 | info@sof.edu | sof.edu

Dear SOF Families,

8/29/2018

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 getting the building prepared and meeting to discuss curriculum and pedagogy. We look forward to welcoming you all back and greeting some of you for the first time. For now, we want to take this opportunity to update you on some changes and remind you of some beginning of the school year information.

We are very happy to report that our auditorium is receiving an upgrade with a new sound system and new seats. This work will go into effect in mid September and should have no interference with classes and student learning.

We are very excited to be partnering with a new after-school program, Manhattan Youth. Manhattan Youth coordinates most all of the District Two after school programs and has a wonderful reputation. They also facilitate the whole District Two Middle School competitive sports program. Our amazing Director, Jennifer Tortora who has a background in college athletics as well as youth programming, is excited to run a stellar program. **The after school program starts on September 12th** and goes from 3:00 - 6:00 each day.

We will be building upon our Restorative Justice program this year. All Sixth through Tenth 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 and calendar at sof.edu as all school information will be placed there. You can also use the website to contact teachers and administration.

This year, the official school times are as follows: The MS day starts 8:30am and ends at 3pm on Mondays and Fridays. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Middle School day ends at 3:30; The High School day starts at 8:25am and ends at 3:00pm each day.

[Here is some opening school day information:](#)

Wednesday, September 5th follows regular timing for the first day of school.

Middle School: 8:30am to 3:30pm with lunch at 11:25am

High School: 8:25am to 2:05pm with lunch at 12:15 pm.

6th 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 numbers for free lunch if they have them, as out lunch will not be available on the first day. Seventh and Eighth 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 needed. 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 Shari Vilchez Blatt. If you feel you do not receive e-mail updates please contact Shari at sharivblatt@gmail.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 .

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

Sincerely,

Stacy Goldstein
Principal/MS Director
sgoldstein@sof.edu

John Fanning
AP/HS Director
jfanning@sof.edu