



THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School

3502 Maple Grove Drive
Madison, WI 53719

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Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!



September - October 2013

Mission Statement: *Chávez Elementary School is an academic institution dedicated to developing the intellectual and creative abilities of our students. Ours is a collaborative effort among staff, students, families and our community to guide students to become knowledgeable and contributing citizens, able to successfully make their way in this global society. Together with kindness, gentle good humor and respect for each other, we will foster a safe learning environment of joy and acceptance.*

Welcome to César Chávez Elementary School!

We are off to a great start with **704** students. Due to the number of Kindergarteners that enrolled we had to add another class and we lost a third grade class due to numbers. So we were able to make changes with our staff before the school year started. This allowed us to have a smooth transition.

We want to thank Amy Carran, Jamie Krohn, and Rachel Bawden for changing their grade levels before school began.

Chávez aims to be a positive place where students, staff and parents feel good about school and where important learning occurs.

This year our school will offer WIN Time for students. This stands for *"What I Need"* where we will have a 30 minute time period on Tuesday through Friday focusing on specific literacy instruction based upon your student's literacy needs. Multiple assessments

will be considered to determine your child's next teaching point in literacy.

We will be discussing the Code of Conduct and Bullying in every classroom to make sure everyone knows how to be a *Safe, Respectful & Responsible* student. Our PE teachers in collaboration with classroom teachers are teaching Peaceful Playgrounds so students know how to play safe on the playground. **Safety** is number one.

For more information about our school please look for us on FACEBOOK.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Linda Allen and Becky Kundert
Principal Assistant Principal

New Chavez Staff Members:

Welcome the following new staff members to Chávez: Ines Sanchez-Flor (DLI Kindergarten), Elena Lozano Rubio (DLI Second Grade), Charlotte Cummins (Art), Marina Solis Fajardo and Lacey Pesce (Bilingual Resource Teachers), Todd Baker and Brian Lynaugh (Custodians), Daniel Huebsch (Librarian), Barb Jacobs (REACH Teacher) and Rachel Davidson, Joshua Gardner, Holly Hei, Martha Pfister-Genskow (Special Education Assistants), Kim Schmitgen (Special Needs Nurse) and Rachel Sanabria (VISTA Coordinator).

School of Merit

César Chávez Elementary was honored by the Wisconsin PBIS Network as a School of Merit for the tremendous work accomplished through the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a proactive approach that establishes safer and more effective schools and is currently being implemented in approximately 47% of Wisconsin Schools. We were one of the 146 schools state wide that was recognized for the 2012-2013 school year.

Chávez received a letter of congratulations and a great school banner. Our school expectations are: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. Each month we focus on a specific skill or a specific environment to proactively teach our expected behaviors.

MORNING ENTRANCE INTO BUILDING

To help alleviate the chaos in the morning lines we now have the students come into the building at 8:15 a.m. and go directly to breakfast or to their designated spots outside the classroom until the 8:25 a.m. bell. So, **seat time/learning begins at 8:30 a.m.**

We will continue to monitor and control who enters the building during the school day. After the children enter the building the school will be secured. Access to the building will be limited to the main entrance and it will require visitors or students who arrive late to be “buzzed in”. Office staff will follow protocol. Please understand that they see many faces each day and it is very difficult to remember everyone so please don’t be offended when asked how they can help you before being admitted. Once you are in you will be instructed to sign in and get a name tag.

We take the safety of our students and staff very seriously.

SAFE ARRIVAL

When your child is going to be absent or tardy, please call the Safe Arrival line at **442-2085**. It is extremely important that we account for the safety of each child every day, so you may call in at anytime seven days a week. However, please call before 8:30 a.m. on the day of your child’s absence with your child’s name, reason for absence, the date and whether or not they will need a hot lunch (A or B) if they are just tardy and will be arriving in time for lunch.

Excuse of Planned Absences

Parents/Guardians who want to have their child miss school for any reason other than medical (i.e. family trips, tournaments, or competitions) must submit a **Request for Excuse of Planned Absence Form** (available from the office). This form must be submitted to the principal for approval **prior** to the absences. There will not be approved absences if similar requests have exceeded 10 days over the course of the year. Classroom teachers can not approve absence requests.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If at any time during the school year a student moves to a different address within the city, the change must be reported to the school office. Any change in a telephone number at home or work should also be reported. Students who move out of the Chávez attendance area during the year must have approved transfer to continue attending Chávez.

Lost and Found

There is a lost and found bench near the A- staircase near the front entry. Please make sure you put your child’s name inside their coats, hat, shirts, etc. so we can try to return them.

Start Now: Build the Habit of Good Attendance and Timeliness

Attending school regularly and arriving on time helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit now so they learn the importance right away. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, career and community.

What you can do:

- Make sure your child gets enough sleep. 6 to 9 year olds need at least 10 hours of sleep and 10 to 12 years old need at least 9+ hours of sleep.
 - Remove electronic screen devices from their bedroom (TV, computer, Ipad, video games).
 - Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
 - Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
 - Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
 - If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to their teacher, the Social Worker, the Psychologist, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
 - Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
 - Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- (Adapted from attendanceworks.org)

RELEASING CHILDREN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If a parent wants to release their child to go to an appointment, these procedures will be followed in our school office.

1. Parent/Authorized adult (on Infinite Campus) must sign the logbook in the office.
2. The adult must have authority to pick up the child.
3. If the office does not know the adult, ID will be secured or verification procedures will be used.
4. The child's teacher will be notified by the office to send the child to the office.
5. Visitors should go to the office. No pick-ups are allowed from the playground.

Once school is in session, no non-school staff (including parents) will be allowed to go to a classroom unaccompanied to pick up a child. Phone calls are NOT acceptable to release a child and let the child walk home or to an appointment.

DROP-OFF REMINDERS

Chávez families who are transporting their students by car to and from school should be aware of the difficult and hazardous situation in front of the school each morning and after school. As the weather gets colder the traffic flow will increase, making the loop more congested. We ask for your cooperation and support with the following:

If dropping off or picking up in the parking loop in the front of the school:

- Please use caution as you enter and exit the parking lot.
- Please do not get out of your vehicle or park as the line of traffic must keep moving.
- Keep your vehicle moving forward if there is vacant space in front of you.
- Drive around the loop and **not through** the handicapped stall.
- Watch for our safety patrols as they use the crosswalk to safely cross students and parents to the marked parking stalls.
- Make a right hand turn only when exiting the front parking lot.

If needing to park or get out of your vehicle, the following options are available:

- Walk to the sidewalk with the patrols and crossing guard when crossing the street.
- Park on Pinelake and Pima Drive and drop off/pick up your child.
- Park on East Pass or Manchester and walk to the crossing guard.
- If you park on the Capitoland side of Maple Grove Drive, please use the crossing guard.
- Car pool whenever possible.

Crossing Maple Grove Drive anywhere other than the designated cross walk is extremely unsafe. Please do not have your children run between cars.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

It is MMSD policy that students who require medications at school will need to provide doctors orders and parent permission forms to the health office. Until we have these items on file, we are unable to administer medications. Both forms are available on the MMSD website or from the health office. Please call 442-2010 with questions or concerns.

Vision and hearing screening is on the schedule for early October. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lauri Ysen, School Nurse at 442-2008. Screening will take place Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings.

Health office staff schedules:

Lauri Ysen, RN, School Nurse: Mon, Tue, Thur 9:00-3:15 p.m.

Diane Moungey, Nursing Assistant: Mon, Tue, Thur 8:15-12:15 Wed and Fri 8:15-3:15 p.m.

Chávez Behavior Expectations

Be Safe Be Respectful Be Responsible

For the month of September, Chávez has focused on teaching "Peaceful Playground." Specifically, school-wide we focused on playground rules, using equipment appropriately, lining up promptly when the whistle blows, and being respectful to other students while playing. When students are caught demonstrating this positive behavior, they receive a Cheetah paw. Cheetah paws are collected school-wide and go towards an acknowledgement to be experienced by everyone. Our first celebration will be at 250 paws earning students an extra recess.

We would love for you to get involved! Please help to encourage your child(ren) to remember to Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible while at school.

If you would like more information or would like to provide input into our school-wide behavior program, please contact Andrea Reifsnider, School Social Worker and Positive Behavior Support Coach (areifsnider2@madison.k12.wi.us or 442-2012).

NO PETS ALLOWED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The MMSD policy states that to maintain the safety and health of all students and adults, dogs and other pets should not be brought into the school building or on school grounds without first providing the needed documentation as outlined in the policy.

Please do not bring your dog or other pet onto school property when picking up or dropping off your child. If you wish to obtain special permission for your family pet to visit your child's classroom during the school day, please speak to your child's teacher or the school office.

BIKES

Students who bring a bicycle to school do so at their own risk and bear the loss of any theft of or vandalism to the bicycle. Bicycle riders who do not observe the following rules may lose privileges at school.

The new Board Policy 4233 for Student Bicycle Use states the following:

- All students in 4th grade or above may ride their bikes to school, unaccompanied, without prior permission.
- Students in grades below 4th grade may ride their bike to school *if* they are accompanied by an adult. If they wish to ride to school unaccompanied, the Principal may approved an individual written request by a parent or guardian.
- All bike riders must park their bikes in the designated area, wear helmets, use bike locks, and follow any additional bicycle safety rules established by the Principal.

FIELD TRIP NOTIFICATION

All field trips taken during regular school hours shall be related to curriculum. Because these trips are part of the school day and curriculum, all students in the class are expected to participate and parental permission is assumed to be given by virtue of the student's enrollment and attendance.

Parents WILL be provided with a notification form for each trip, including notice of and request for the cost of participation. Please let the office know if you need a waiver of the fees.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADHERING TO SCHOOL CONDUCT RULES ON SCHOOL-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION

The MMSD Student Conduct & Discipline Plan was revised by the Board of Education in June 2009. As part of the revision, the School Board set the clear expectation for schools and students that school personnel will respond to significant behavioral incidents that occur on school-provided transportation (primarily yellow buses). It is very important for students to understand that they are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus, and that the school Principal will review and investigate inappropriate bus behavior. In response to violations of school rules or behavior expectations that occur on a bus, Principals may use school related interventions and/or disciplinary measures that include the temporary suspension of bus riding privileges and/or suspension from school. For very serious incidents, it is possible that a student could be expelled from school for misconduct that occurs on school-provided transportation.

The District's contracted bus carriers have been informed that while the drivers retain responsibility for the supervision of children on the bus and for responding to behavior by, for example, assigning seats, the school Principal (or a designee) is responsible for determining any school-related consequences for misbehavior that occurs on a bus (including the temporary suspension from school-provided transportation). Parents or Guardians will be informed by the Principal or a designee if an incident occurs that needs attention or that has resulted in a serious consequence. School staff will review bus expectations with all students receiving transportation. We are also asking parents or guardians to reinforce this information at home with your child/ren.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences this year will be held in the evening on November 12 and 14, 2013. There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, November 15th.

Your child's teacher will work with your schedule if these two evenings are not convenient for you.

At Open House you signed up for a conference, if you cannot keep that appointment or were not at Open House and need to sign up for a conference, please call your child's teacher.

Crossing Guard

Welcome **Julie Satala-Webber** as our crossing guard at Maple Grove Drive/Keswick. She is stationed on Maple Grove/Keswick with the following schedule: Mon. – Fri. a.m. 7:45 – 8:45; Mon. p.m. 1:30 – 2:30; Tues. – Fri. 3:00 - 4:00

A Message From the Madison Police Department

Traffic safety is important for all our children attending school and we would like to ask for your help with these efforts. Our biggest concern at this time is traffic safety at or near the schools. We need to increase our traffic safety awareness by obeying the following traffic laws:

1. ****SLOW DOWN!**** Observe the speed limit. Check your speedometer to see how fast you are really going. Slow down to 20 miles per hour when passing a school at those times when children are going to or from school or are playing within the sidewalk area at or around the school. Slow down to 20 miles per hour when passing an intersection monitored by an adult crossing guard. If there are no posted 20 MPH signs, the school zone speed is 15 MPH. Failure to comply with the posted school zone speed limits could result in the issuance of a traffic citation in the amount of \$146.80-\$550.00.

2. ****OBSERVE THE SIGNALS OF THE ADULT CROSSING GUARD****: Every driver approaching a school crossing which is controlled by an adult school crossing guard must follow the directions of the school crossing guard. If directed to stop, you must stop the vehicle not less than 10 feet nor more than 30 feet from the school crossing guard. You must remain stopped until the children **AND** the crossing guard has returned to the curb. Failure to stop or remain stopped at that time could result in the issuance of a traffic citation in the amount of \$88.80.

Young children have a difficult time judging the speed and distance of an approaching vehicle. **Remind your children to use the marked crosswalk and to follow the directions of the crossing guard.** Remember to set a good example for your children, and, if you cross with them, please use the designated crosswalk and adhere to the directions of the crossing guard.

3. ****PARK ONLY IN AREAS WHERE IT IS LEGAL****. Please observe and adhere to the posted parking signs. Congestion in front of and around the school reduces visibility and increases driver distractions. To help alleviate the traffic congestion at or around schools, consider dropping your children off a block or two from school and walk. It is illegal to drop off students in the areas that are marked **"No Stopping, Standing, or Parking"**. Failure to adhere to this posting may result in a \$40.00 ticket.

Do not stop on, (or block) a painted crosswalk when dropping your children off at school. You may not park closer than 15 feet of a crosswalk, and you may not block a private driveway when unloading or loading passengers, nor block driveways.

4. ****U-TURNS ARE PROHIBITED IN SCHOOL ZONES**** Mid-block turns to

proceed in the opposite direction are illegal in school zones. This increases the congestion and traffic hazards in school zones. Completion of a mid-block turn/U-Turn in a school zone may result in a traffic ticket.

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN!

PTO NEWS

Welcome families to a new school year. Hopefully you're starting to feel settled in to the new routine. We have lots of fun PTO activities planned this year such as dances, book fairs, math night, etc. Please consider volunteering to co-chair or volunteer at one of these events. It's a fun way to connect with other parents and watch your child in the school environment.

Email chavezvolunteer@gmail.com if you are interested in helping at any of the following events this fall:

Picture Day - Wednesday, October 2

School Dance - Friday, November 1

Cookie Dough Distribution - Thursday, November 7

Craft Fair - Saturday, November 9

Book Fair - During Conferences Nov 12, 14.

For information on meeting dates and minutes for the PTO, go to our website at chavezschool.com.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

We will be starting a **WALKING SCHOOL BUS** for the first time this school year. We are working with MMSD and city engineers to make the area around school safer for kids and that means trying to get more kids walking (and biking) to school. This past spring, we set up a traffic committee to address concerns Chavez parents had over traffic safety and

along with more signs and barricades we will be initiating a walking school bus program.

How it works:

1. The walking "bus" will go along a set route with at least 2 adult "drivers" picking up kids at designated "bus stops". The walking routes are flexible to suit the needs of the families on the route and will go as often as volunteer parents/caregivers want to lead the walk. Leading a walking school bus is a great way to meet kids and parents in the neighborhood.
2. Please email Corrina Frye, school champion for the program, at thefryes@tds.net if you would like to participate. We want to set up routes and volunteers in the next two weeks so please respond right away.
3. Once we know how many families want to participate, routes that make the most sense will be created.
4. Please email Corrina Frye at thefryes@tds.net if you would be interested in volunteering to walk one of the routes. You could choose one or more days.
5. Kids will receive a punch card which will get punched for each day that they walk or bike to school. Once a punch card is full, they can receive a key chain and foot token. They can continue to collect foot tokens throughout the program.
6. MMSD and the State of Wisconsin will be having biking and walking challenges in October - look for details.

Benefits of walking to school:

1. It's fun - kid's love it!
2. Kids need 60 minutes of physical activity every day to build healthy bones, muscles and joints.
3. Studies show that kids have better concentration after exercise.
4. Reduce traffic congestion and air-polluting emissions around school.
5. Walking with adults teaches safe pedestrian skills to kids.
6. Kids learn that walking is an easy and fun lifetime physical activity.

Koats for Kids

Distribution of new/gently used coats for those in need:

Location: CAC Clothing Center @ 1717 N Stoughton Rd. Madison, WI 53704

Dates: Tuesday, Oct. 1 – Thursday, Oct 31

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs – 10 am-3 pm

Evening and Weekend Hours: Oct. 8th & 15th – 4:30pm-7 pm, Oct. 19th & 26th – 10am-2pm

ID Required (including children) - one of the following: Social Security Card, Insurance Card, Photo ID, Medical Card, Referral from another agency (call Chávez Social Worker: 442-2012)

Income Guidelines: Household must be at or below 125% Federal Poverty Level

For more info: Call CAC at 608-246-4730 x200

****If you are not in need, but would like to donate gently used coats or winter clothing, you may drop off your tax-deductible donations at any Klinker Cleaners throughout the month of September.**

Need resources (food, hygiene supplies, housing, support, etc)? Don't know where to turn?

Call 2-1-1 (United Way's Resource line).
Contact Andrea Reifsnider, Chávez School Social Worker- 442-2012 or
areifsnider2@madison.k12.wi.us

"MSCR TAKE THE STAGE"

A Performance Based Musical Theatre Workshop for Adults

Solo, group and ensemble opportunities! Whether you are a seasoned performer looking for new gig, or you are trying to muster up the strength to get on stage...this workshop is for you! All skill levels, ages 18+ encouraged to participate. Work with a coach for 10 weeks to learn numbers from hit shows. Workshop concludes with a public performance on Saturday, December 13, 2013. Songs are from popular musicals. Fee includes rehearsal and

practice materials, and basic costume components. For more information call 608-204-3021. *Bring a friend and check out the 1st night for free!*

Midvale School, Tuesdays, 10/1-12/10, 6:30-8:30 pm, \$92*

Register at www.mschr.org course #: 43199

*MMSD resident rate. Non-residents pay 50% more

Tri 4 Schools is sponsoring two Family Fun Runs

Roo Run: This year for our Family Fun Run, we're partnering with the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison on their Kids Roo Run. Join us on **Sunday, September 29th** for a roaring good time! Kids 14 and under can choose from a quarter, half, or full mile course and parents can participate in the 5k or 10k. Plenty of family fun activities will be available after the race, so register today and support two great local organizations.

Go online to register at tri4schools.com

Mark Your Calendars:

October 2 – Life Touch Picture Day

October 8 – PTO Meeting Topic: School Improvement Planning (SIP)

October 22 – DLI Parent Meeting @ 6:00 -7:30 p.m.

October 24 – 25 – Professional Development Days (No School)

November 12 & 14 – Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (Special's Teachers will be available)

November 15th – No School