



# THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

*A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School*

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*Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!*



**October 2012**

**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.*

Dear Chávez Parents and Community Members,

We have had a good kick off to the school year. At Chávez Elementary School, we prioritize academic and social emotional learning for all students, which include making changes to ensure student safety. The first change many of you noticed at registration which is improved communication between school and families about dismissal procedures, having families clearly articulate a plan for how your child(ren) will be leaving school daily. Please make sure you inform the office and/or the classroom teacher if there are any changes to your plan.

This year we continue to promote positive behavior supports by teaching proactive social emotional skills. We started the school year, directly teaching all students how to greet each other appropriately. Then focusing for one month on "Keep Hands and Feet to Self", we have shared with all classrooms the key pieces of the student code of conduct, emphasizing that at school "playfighting" is never safe. Upon reading this newsletter, Chávez students

and staff will be working hard at "Leave No Trace" across all school environments. We share this language with you, as this helps to build consistency between home and school.

We are looking forward to continuing with a great year!

Linda Allen & Becky Kundert

## **WELCOME ANDREA REIFSNIDER**

Hello Chávez families! As the new School Social Worker, I wanted to take a brief moment to introduce myself. Passionate about equipping our future generation, it has been a smooth transition for me to shift my context from being the Case Manager at a family homeless shelter in northeast, WI to now serving in your school community. I am already deeply encouraged to see your commitment to your children's education and future through the hundreds of parents I was able to meet at Chávez's Open House. For those I have not yet been able to dialogue with, I would welcome that opportunity! Please feel free to give me a call 608-442-2012 or send me an email [areifsnider2@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:areifsnider2@madison.k12.wi.us). Happy 2012/2013 school year...may it be just the beginning of a great future!!!

## **KELLI KRUSER- CHÁVEZ SECRETARY**

Kelli comes to Chávez from Thoreau Elementary. She started at Chávez on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by the office to meet Kelli and welcome her to Chávez.

## **BUILDING SECURITY**

During the past year, the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) has taken an initiative to increase the safety of our children by installing a security system in each of our schools to improve the physical security of buildings, in particular, to restrict building access. These systems will allow school staff to monitor and control who enters the building during the school day.

After the children enter the building in the morning, the school will be secured. Access to the building will be limited to the main and accessible entrances and it will require visitors or students who arrive late to be “buzzed in.” Office staff will then instruct you to come to the main office to sign-in.

Though this procedure may cause some inconveniences, we believe this is a necessary move to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. Please feel free to contact your school principal if you have any questions.

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 Number 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.

## **RELEASING CHILDREN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

Please review the following procedures with your staff. If a parent wants to release their child to go to an appointment, these procedures must be followed.

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 HIM OR HER 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 order and parent permission forms to the health office. Until we have these things on file, we are unable to administer medications. Both forms are available on the MMSD website or from the health office.

Please call with questions or concerns: 442-2010  
Health office staff schedules:

Lauri Ysen, RN, School Nurse: Mon, Tue, Thur – 9:00- 3:15

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

## **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**

We want to see your kids! Every. Single. Day. Research shows that chronic absence, missing 10% or more of school for any reason, is an early indicator of academic risk and school dropout...this disadvantage begins as early as kindergarten! Please, please, PLEASE prioritize getting your children to school, their futures start today.

By way of update, to increase accuracy on the amount of students' missed learning time, the elementary schedule is now broken into 3 periods. 8:30-10:45, 10:45-1:01, 1:02-3:17. A child will be marked as **tardy** if they arrive after the start time and within the first 15 minutes. If they arrive more than 15 minutes late, they will be marked as **absent** for that period. Thank you for your commitment to the academic and social/emotional success of your children by prioritizing their school attendance.

## **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**

Board of Education Policy states that a student age 10 or older may ride a bicycle to school. (The principal may make exceptions for younger students upon written request by a parent.)The school

guidelines ask that an adult accompany young bikers (under age 10) to school.

Bicycle permits for eligible students may be picked up in the office. Riding bicycles on the playground or near grounds is not permitted. Helmets are mandatory when riding and any damage to the bicycle is the responsibility of the owner.

Skateboards, roller blades, roller shoes, roller skates, and scooters are not permitted at any time on school grounds.

### **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.

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

As we launch a brand new year, we remain committed to teaching children to behave in a positive manner. Excitingly, we have already witnessed A LOT of children practicing what has been taught. One way in which we are acknowledging this success is through handing out cheetah paws attached to specific verbal praise when positive behavior is displayed. School-wide, every 250 paws that are collected the children receive some form of larger celebration. From extra recess to an art party, the sky's the limit. This is where **we need your help**. Do you have any connections to fun/unique resources for cheap or would you personally be willing to donate items that could be utilized by 700 students to celebrate as classes, by grade level, or as an entire school? We welcome "Out of the Box" ideas...one parent has already provided enough bubble wrap so that we can have a school-wide "popping party!" Please contact Andrea Reifsnider, our PBS Coach, with any assistance you can offer at 442-2012 or areifsnider2@madison.k12.wi.us. Thank you in advance!

### **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent teacher conferences this year are scheduled for November 15, 2012. No School on the 15<sup>th</sup>. At Open house you signed up for a conference, if you cannot keep that appointment or need to sign up for a conference, please call your child's teacher.

## 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.

## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM ...

Please stop by and welcome our new part-time General Music teacher, Elizabeth Magargal. She is from New York and has a strong music background. Her husband is an opera singer, so our first big all-school musical event – Opera For The Young – was right up her alley!

OFY's inaugural performance of Jules Massenet's "**Cinderella**" was Thursday, October 11. The following students had roles as mice, nobles, horses and the King and Queen: Bianca Barredo (*Queen*), Casandra Bird, Breanna Bushey, Megan Boucher, Jamie Bowser (*horse*), Jack Dickey, Ellen Dux-Dahm, Michael Elliott, Cassidy Fitzgerald, Joey Freeburg, Ellie Hei, Jaleah Hunt, Zaiden Lalley, Susan Orea, Evan Rutherford (*King*) and Matthew Vancik (*horse*). Cristian Cruz and Priscilla Lancaster were alternates/understudies.

All of our students learned the mice and nobles' songs as well as listened to the libretto (story) and learned new vocabulary. The most popular new word seemed to be "spring chickens"! (At one point, while the Prince is complaining about going to another ball, he asks his parents *why* he must go. The king answers: "Because we're not exactly spring chickens!")

Learn more about opera - Suggested Reading:

- *Gabriella's Song* by Candace Fleming and Giselle Potter

- *Pet of the Met* by Lydia Freeman
- *Bantam of the Opera* by Mary Jane Auch
- *Opera Cat* by Tess Weaver and Andrea Wesson
- *Encore, Opera Cat!* by Tess Weaver and Andrea Wesson
- *The Great Poochini* by Gary Clement
- *The Dog Who Sang at the Opera* by Marshall Izen
- *The Love for Three Oranges* by Sergei Prokofiev
- *The Boy and the Spell* by Maurice Ravel

Children in grades K-3 will have four visits this year with the **Hunt String Quartet** as part of the Madison Symphony Orchestra's "*Up Close and Musical*" program. In mid-May, first, second and third graders will attend the "Symphony Soup" concert, which will feature the members of the string quartet.

## COOKIE DOUGH PICK-UP

Cookie dough pick-up is on Wednesday, October 24 from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. We need volunteers to help organize the orders – please call Kim Tosto at 225-8192 if you can help. Kids will also receive their prizes with the cookie dough orders.

## LOST AND FOUND

To increase your chance of a lost item being returned, consider labeling all items. Coats, hats, mittens, shoes, shirts and boots are often found in the lost and found and sit unclaimed for the year until it is donated.

## **Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)**

### **WHY MIGHT A STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN THIS TESTING OPPORTUNITY?**

Reasons include:

- The testing process offers parents a way to learn more about their child's academic ability. This may be the first testing experience a student has in which s/he does not know all of the answers, or is even able to complete the entire test. Therefore, information is gained regarding a student's relative strengths. This information may be used to help inform instruction in the student's school.
- Students will gain information about other academic opportunities around the state and nation through the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY), Northwestern University, and other national organizations.

Students who typically score at the top ("ceiling") of standardized testing may need this out of grade level assessment to measure their growth. It is recommended that students score at least in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in some area of their state tests or other standardized tests.

### **HOW CAN STUDENTS REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN NUMATS?**

It is easiest to register on-line at

<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats/index.html>

You may also register by mail. Registration materials will soon be available and paper registration continues through October. Please contact Kerry Berns, by phone, 663-5230 or by email, [kberns@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:kberns@madison.k12.wi.us), if you prefer to register by mail.

### **IS THERE ANY FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE?**

There is a registration fee in addition to a testing fee to participate in NUMATS. Some fee waivers are available from Northwestern and WCATY for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Please contact Kerry Berns (see above) if you qualify for financial support.

## **LITERACY AND MATH ASSESSMENTS**

This 2012 – 2013 school year there will be a number of assessments that our students will be participating in throughout the year.

	<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Math</b>
<b>4K</b>	4K Gold	4K Gold
<b>K</b>	PALS Text Reading Level	Number Development
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	Text Reading Level	Number Development Fact Interview (+, -)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Text Reading Level	Fact Interview (+, -)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	MAP (Reading, Language) 6 Traits Writing WKCE	MAP (Math) Fact Interview (+, -, x, /)
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	MAP (Reading, Language) WKCE	MAP (Math) Fact Interview (+, -, x, /)
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	MAP (Reading, Language) 6 Traits Writing WKCE	MAP (Math) Fact Interview (+, -, x, /)

**PALS** is a state-wide reading assessment that provides a measure of children's knowledge of several important literacy fundamentals: phonological awareness, alphabet recognition, concept of word, knowledge of letter sounds and spelling.

**Text Reading Level (TRL)** is an MMSD assessment that provides decoding and comprehension outcome data.

**Number Development Assessment (NDA)** is an MMSD designed series of tasks that assess understanding of number: forward number sequence, backward number sequence, number before and number after.

**Fact Interview (FI)** is an MMSD designed interview to assess number relationships in each of the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students must demonstrate use of a number relationship strategy (as opposed to counting), accuracy (correct response) and automaticity (3 seconds or less) to be considered fluent.

**Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)** is a computer-based assessment given in reading, language usage and math. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your student's level of learning.

**Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE)** is a state assessment...  
**6 Traits Writing Assessment** is an MMSD designed assessment in writing given over three days that includes planning, drafting and composing a final copy. Students are scored on each of the six writing traits: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions.

## **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!**

## **CHÁVEZ EVENTS**

October 15 – PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Bullying

**\*\*PTO meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month\*\***

October 25 – 26 (No School)

Professional Development Days for Staff

October 30 – DLI Parent Night 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

November 2 – School Dance 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

November 6 – Life Touch Picture Retake Day

November 15 – Parent Teacher Conferences (No School)

November 22- 23 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

December 24 – January 4 – Winter Break (No School)

January 7 – School Resume