



A Memo from the MS Class Dean



Left to right: Matthew Schade, 7th Grade Dean; Ali Miller, 8th Grade Dean; Jonathan Davis, MS Principal; Tasha Urbanowski, 6th Grade Dean

Dear 7th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 academic year at Dwight-Englewood School! I hope that this summer has provided you and your family with an abundance of opportunities for joy, memories, and at least a little relaxation. On campus this week, the full faculty and staff have returned and are making preparations to welcome students next Tuesday. Schedules are being finalized, orientations planned, and classrooms arranged to make sure we are ready for the journey ahead. I am sure you are undergoing your own preparations as well. With that in mind, I wanted to send this initial message to provide some information for the upcoming weeks. If you have not had the chance, I do recommend checking out the [Start of School Resources site that you can find here.](#)

Dates of Interest

- **Sept. 2nd - Advisor Welcome Emails:** 7th graders should expect a welcome email sent from their advisors this afternoon. This email will include important information regarding orientation next Tuesday. During orientation, students will spend the vast majority of the day with their advisory groups, including sitting with them at lunch (something that will continue through the first few weeks of school).
- **Sept. 8th - First Day of School!:** Students will be welcomed to campus for the first day of school and orientation for 7th grade. Below are some important details to know:
 - **Morning Drop-Off:** Students being dropped off by car should do so in front of the Middle School building (also in front of Umpleby Hall). 7th Grade teacher Mr. Larowe will be there to help direct returning students to the Sherman Gym in Modell's Sports Complex where they can meet their advisor. I will be near the bus drop-off also directing returning students this way. All new students and returning buddies should meet Mr. Samedy in front of the Middle School building. Once the buddy and new student have been linked, Mr. Samedy will direct them to Sherman Gym.
 - **What to Bring:** At a minimum, students should bring something to write with, a water bottle, and they can bring their Yondr pouch if they are returning (new students will receive this from their advisor). Students **do not need to bring their iPad** for the first day. They may bring their backpack with their school supplies if they would like to leave these in their locker, which they will have access to once it has been assigned to them by their advisor. Students should dress comfortably for the weather, as there will be some walking around campus as well as some activities that require some degree of movement. Students who easily get cold may want to bring a sweatshirt, as the air-conditioned buildings can make some individuals chilly.
 - **Buddies:** Buddies should make an effort to connect with their new student at some point over the next week, and they should be ready to meet their new student in front of the Middle School on the first day.
 - **Full Course Roster:** Students will all receive their full course roster during orientation. Part of the programming will be reviewing the schedule with students to make sure they know where they are supposed to go starting the second day of school.
- **Sept. 14th - First Day of Fall Athletics Tryouts:** Students interested in trying out for a fall sport will do so after school starting on this day. Sports available to students include soccer, cross country, volleyball, and girls' tennis. Look for an email from the athletics department with a link for pre-season sign-ups, and see the athletic page of the website for details.
- **Sept. 15th - Back to School Night:** Back-to-School Night on campus for parents only. Meet your child's teachers! Look for an upcoming e-mail invitation from the Middle School office with more details.
- **Sept. 16th - Picture Day:** We capture headshots for student and yearbook IDs. If you want copies, you may purchase these from the photographer using an order form available on the website. Look for a link in the next "Middle School Messages" email from Mr. Davis.
- **Sept. 21st - Yom Kippur:** No school

- **Sept. 24th-25th - 7th Grade Overnight Trip:** This is our annual grade-level overnight trip, and this year we will be traveling to Philadelphia! Students will be visiting locations such as the National Constitution Center and the Franklin Institute. More details to follow in the coming weeks.
 - **Sept. 28th - 7th Grade New Parent Orientation:** This evening event is designed for parents new to D-E with the goal of providing helpful information regarding policies, procedures, and other helpful tips for navigating the school. New families should be on the lookout for an invitation to this event.
 - **Oct. 5th - 7th Grade Parent Forum:** The first parent forum of the year will take place from 8:30-10:00 AM on campus. This is an in-person opportunity to meet other parents, discuss specific developmental issues, and meet key support people in your child's school experience. More details to follow.
 - **Oct. 9th - Professional Day for Faculty:** No school for students
 - **Oct. 12th - Indigenous Peoples' Day:** No school
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Other Notes

Attendance: Mrs. Leslie Jones is our attendance coordinator for middle school. You can reach her at MSattendance@d-e.org or 201-227-3301. Please let her know if your child will be dropped off late, picked up early or unexpectedly absent by filling out the form on your SCHOOL PASS app or, if that is not possible, reaching out to her directly. In addition, please try to reach out to me with a week's notice for any possible planned absences for your child. The main purpose of this is to provide the student with ample time to check-in with teachers and get a sense of the work that they may need to make-up while away. As a general rule of thumb, planned absences generally do not come with an extension on assignments except for certain special circumstances (ex: bereavement).

MS Office/Day-Of Communications: Our office manager is Ms. Diane Cebulski. You can reach her at 201-227-3230 or cebuld@d-e.org. She can help you get a message to your child should you have an unexpected, time-sensitive communication. All students will be using a Yondr pouch for their cell phone and/or smartwatch. New students will get their Yondr pouch on the first day of school. Returning students should try to bring their Yondr pouch with them on the first day.

Check-In Meetings (Optional): Following the overnight trip later this month, I plan to offer optional check-in meetings through Google Meet for any interested parents. The purpose of these meetings are for me to learn more about your child and how I can best support both them and you this school year. Be on the lookout for more information about this following the trip!

That is it for now. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am looking forward to a wonderful year, and wish you a great final week of summer!

Take care,

Matthew Schade
Seventh Grade Dean