

An Innovative District Delivering Educational Excellence

READ IMMEDIATELY AND NOTE CALENDAR DATES

To: 8th Grade MWHS Parents and Students
From: Link Crew
Date: August 12, 2021
Re: 8th Grade Welcome Orientation

LINK CREW PROGRAM

This school year, your student will be a part of an exciting program at Mound Westonka High School. The Link Crew program is about building relationships and encouraging participation as a member of the school community. Link Crew will foster the relationships between our 8th and 9th grade students and their school. Link Crew sets the tone for the entire year and we are excited that your student will be a member of this great program at MWHS. We have selected an outstanding group of junior and senior students that we believe will serve as leaders, role models and mentors to your student during their 8th/9th grade years. The leaders will be involved in training this August also during the school year. The training will prepare them to work on academic, social and emotional issues that students experience day-to-day during their first years of high school.

Link Crew during WIN (What I Need) Time...

Also new to your student at MWHS will be WIN on Thursday afternoons, which meets after 6th period of the school day with two 40-minute WIN sessions. (To review our new bell schedule, click [here](#).) Every student in grades 8-12 at the high school is expected to sign up for WIN each Thursday (Thursdays are when WIN Day happens with only a few exceptions) unless they are locked in to meet with a teacher. Link Crew will meet once a month during one WIN session, so if an average month has 4 weeks...that is 8 total WIN sessions. During Link Crew, students in grades 8/9 will have scheduled time to meet with their Link Crew leaders. More information regarding WIN will be explained to students at the start of the school year.

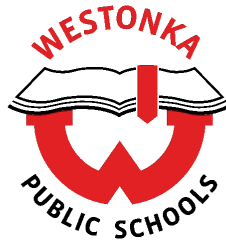
8th GRADE ORIENTATION – SEPTEMBER 1, 8:20am - 12:20pm (same as start time!)

On the morning of Wednesday, September 1, we will be kicking off Link Crew with an orientation program for all 8th grade students at MWHS. Because this orientation is so important, transportation will be provided by Westonka Bus Service (see pick-up information listed below).

The purpose of the morning orientation is to help make the transition for 8th grade students to the high school a positive one. Junior members of Link Crew will be serving as group leaders and

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mentors to the 8th grade students. The 8th grade Orientation is designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner using large and small group activities.

It is essential that all 8th grade MWHS students are present on September 1, 2021 from 8:20am - 12:20pm for this exciting welcome event!

BUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Westonka Bus Service will pick up students at their regular pick up time in the morning and begin drop off AFTER orientation ends at 12:20pm. Students should look at the bus stop information posted on the district web site after August 25.

(<https://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/transportation>) Students who normally don't ride the bus can either go to a bus stop near their home or be dropped off at the North Student Entrance (by Thaler Arena) between 8:10-8:20am and picked up after the busses exit at the same location. If you have a transportation question, call the Westonka Bus Service at (952) 491-8280.

SEPTEMBER 1 - WHAT DO 8th GRADERS NEED?

- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for indoor activities
 - As of the writing of this letter/email, wearing a mask is recommended, but not required.
- Do NOT bring all of your school supplies
- A mid-morning light snack and beverage will be provided
- Remember to travel light; all we want that morning is you!

COVID HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTES

- As of the writing of this letter/email, wearing a mask is recommended, but not required. (Remember that masks are required for all students/adults while on buses.)
- If your student has any signs of symptoms of COVID, please have them stay home.
- Our activities will be in large group and small group settings. We will spread out whenever possible to create space for some social distancing.

If you have any questions please call MWHS, School Connections Coordinator Jennifer Bormes at (952) 491-8121 bormesj@westonka.k12.mn.us.

We can't wait to see you Wednesday, September 1 at 8:20am!

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