



September 2021 Newsletter

As we enter the month of September, the challenges of managing the COVID virus and helping students get back into their daily school regimen has created many opportunities for everyone to learn important life skills. Overcoming fear, managing time, and facing the realization that good relationships require good social skills are just a few of the things our students are learning in addition to the academics they study every day at Center Academy.



We continue to urge students to practice frequent handwashing throughout the school day. Students must not come to school if they experience any symptoms of illness or have exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID (especially in their home). Important information was provided at Open House and the first day of school concerning our sick policy, COVID exposure and positive test results. The same information is included with this newsletter, and you are asked to sign and return the form if you have not already done so. Should you or your child be affected by COVID, please contact me immediately to discuss your situation. Center Academy has an established protocol that follows guidelines provided by the local health department, and we are all responsible for working together to keep each other healthy and safe.



COVID-related absences and necessary quarantines are excused absences, however, the work that is missed must still be made up. Additionally, while these absences are excused, any time missed from school affects student learning and attendance is reported to the FL-DOE for students receiving any state scholarship. **Please try to adhere to the following guidelines concerning school attendance:**

- Report any absence to the school office by 8:30am.
- All absences of three (3) consecutive days or more require a doctor's note upon return to be excused.
- Students who miss fifteen (15) days are subject to receive a failing grade unless there has been a discussion with Mr. Stone (COVID- related absences and those with a doctor's note are taken into consideration).
- As much as possible, schedule your child's appointments after 2:30pm. I know this is not always possible, but please try to limit the times your child leaves school early or arrives late.
- Please leave your home early enough to get here on time. Class begins at 8:30am, so make every effort to get your child here BEFORE that time.
- Attendance and lateness are considered for student participation in weekly casual Fridays, monthly Fun Fridays, and field trips.



MAP Testing will begin Tuesday, 9/7. Please see the communication sent by Mrs. Lynam that includes a schedule of specific dates and details for each class. Students are strongly encouraged to go to bed early the night before their test and to eat prior to testing.

Progress Reports will go home on Tuesday, September 7. Reports will reflect grades through Friday, September 3. Please check Gradelink regularly to see class assignments, grades and missing assignments.

I am pleased to announce that **Coach Stephen Zsiga** has joined our team. Mr. Zsiga will be our PE Teacher and coach our Flag Football and Basketball teams. He has prior experience at our school as he worked with us a few years ago as a Teacher Assistant in our 9th grade class.



Families who are new to Center Academy may not be aware that we use a communication system known as "Bright Arrow" that allows recorded messages to be sent as needed by way of voice mail, text message and email. Parents and guardians are added to this system when their child is enrolled in school. Please notify Mrs. Swinney if you are not receiving these communications.

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Morning Drop-Off & School Entry Guidelines

When dropping off your child at Center Academy, please remain in the southbound lane on Commerce Street and let your child exit the vehicle there. **Do not pull into the main parking lot to drop off your child.** This creates an unsafe situation as you must reverse to pull out while others may be driving through the designated car line or while staff members are trying to park. Students will enter the campus according to their time of arrival and/or grade level, as described in the excerpt below (taken from our previous newsletter):

Under no circumstances may any student be dropped off on school property before 7:30am.



- **Students dropped off between 7:30am and 8:00am must go to Morning Care.** They will enter through the Multi-Purpose room, which is two doors down from the main entrance.
 - The cost of Morning Care is \$25.00 per week, if used Monday through Friday, or \$6.00 per day for drop-in care. Payments for this service must be made no later than the last day of the school week.
 - At 8:00am, students in grades 7-12 who are in Morning Care will be dismissed to go outside to the backyard.
 - Students in grades 5-7/Mrs. Phifer's class will remain in the Multi-Purpose room until 8:25am, when they are dismissed to go to their classroom.
- Students in grades 7-12/Ms. DelCampo's, Ms. Taylor's, Ms. Czerwinski's & Ms. Symoniak's classes arriving at school between 8:00am and 8:28am will enter through the side gate on the southwest corner of the school (facing Riverview Drive) and remain in the backyard until it is time to go inside.
- Students will go to class beginning at 8:20am, with a staff member monitoring entry into the building in an organized manner.
- Students arriving after 8:30am must enter at the main entrance (facing Commerce Street) and sign in at the front desk.

Dismissal Procedure

Students dismiss at 2:30pm each day and will remain in their classrooms at dismissal time. Staff members monitoring car line will communicate using two-way radios, notifying teachers when to send a student outside for pickup. Please use the car line hang tags distributed at Open House and the first day of school. This dismissal procedure has proven to be safe and efficient.

It is extremely important that you follow the instructions below when picking up your child:



- **All vehicles must line up on Commerce Street, facing South (toward the Stop sign at Commerce Street & Riverview Drive).**
- Do Not Block any residential or business driveway.
- Do Not Block any business or parking spot in the shopping plaza that is north of the school, where the Riverview Flea Market is located. *There is a middle lane in that parking lot that can be used for our car line's overflow, if needed.*
- Do Not Park in the school parking lot to wait for your child's dismissal.
- Do Not Park in the vacant lot on the east side of Commerce Street, across from the school's main entrance, to wait for your child.
 - This is *private property* and the owner will call the school office if he sees anyone parking there. Additionally, students will not be permitted by staff to cross Commerce Street to get to your car.
- Do not cut in front of anyone who is already in the car line. Be considerate and wait your turn.
- Do not make a U-turn on Commerce Street when arriving for car line, or after picking up your child, as this is unsafe and creates confusion.
- Students will be dismissed from their classroom and directed to the appropriate vehicle. As cars leave, a staff member will direct vehicles to move forward.

The Riverview Library branch on Riverview Drive has closed and may not be used for parking at this time. Students will not be permitted to walk across Riverview Drive.

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Bear with us on rainy days; we will do our best to get your child to your vehicle as quickly as possible. We ask that you remain in car line and not pull into the main parking lot.

SUFS Gardiner Scholarship Students: If your child is new to Center Academy this year and participates in the Gardiner scholarship program through Step Up for Students (SUFS), please send a copy of their Student ID card to Mrs. Swinney. The card is obtained by logging into the Step Up for Students parent portal and selecting the tab for "Account Activity", then click the link for "Print ID Card". A downloadable PDF document should appear for you to print and send in with your student, or to save and send as an attachment in an email to inforv@centeracademy.com.



Parents of all SUFS Gardiner students are asked to check their child's scholarship funding status. While logged into the SUFS parent portal, click the "Application Status" tab. If your child's scholarship status is shown as 'funded', send a screenshot to Mrs. Swinney that includes the child's name, grade, scholarship year, status, matrix number and award amount.

McKay scholarship checks have arrived at school and require signature by the designated parent. Checks will be made available by a staff member during car line so you can sign without leaving your vehicle. *Please be patient if/when the vehicle ahead of you is stopped for this purpose.* We will do all we can to get checks signed quickly but need your cooperation to ensure everyone remains safe. If you need to make arrangements to visit the front office to sign your child's scholarship check, please contact Mrs. Swinney to arrange a time. As a reminder, scholarship checks cannot leave school premises, per state regulations; therefore, we are unable to mail checks or send them home with students. In addition, only the parent/guardian named on the check may sign it. Please endeavor to sign your child's scholarship check no later than Friday, September 10.

October is our Parent-Teacher conference month. Soon you will be asked to make an appointment to meet with teachers to discuss your child's progress, goals and possibly their MAP test scores (if available). Please wait for a future communication and respond at that time.

Mr. Stone

Director

"Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean." - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

STUDENT AND FAMILY SICK POLICY ATTESTATION:

All Center Academy students, families and staff agree to follow the sick policy as stated below and stay home if they are exhibiting any signs of illness. Individuals will be sent home promptly if symptoms arise during the school day. Symptoms of illness include:

- Active vomiting or diarrhea
- Chills/generalized body aches
- Fever greater than or equal to 100.4
- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory illness (cough, runny nose, respiratory secretions) with or without fever
- Undiagnosed or untreated rash or skin condition
- Pink eye or strep throat unless on antibiotic treatment for 24 hours

Individuals exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, GI symptoms, headache) shall not come to school. Pediatricians and family physicians shall advise families on appropriate next steps and evaluate if COVID-19 testing is warranted. Families may contact the Department of Health hotline at 866-779-6121.

Students shall not return to school until they are illness and symptom free for 24 hours except if diagnosed with COVID-19, in which case they must follow CDC guidelines and Department of Health instruction.

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I attest that I will not come to school/send my child to school unless illness/symptom free and can answer "NO" to all of the following:

- Do you have a fever (temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 without taking fever-reducing medication)?
- Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- Do you have a cough?
- Do you have chills?
- Have you lost your sense of smell or taste?
- Do you have a new headache (e.g. one not associated with known conditions such as allergies)?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Do you have muscle aches?
- Have you experienced any GI symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or loss of appetite?
- Do you have a bacterial infection such as pink eye or strep throat for which you have not been on an antibiotic for 24 hours?
- Have you been asked to self-isolate or instructed to quarantine by a medical professional or health department official?
- If not vaccinated: have you been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19?

Signature

Date

Name