

# AMES ADVICE

2011-2012

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## The First Day of School

On Tuesday, August 30, 2011 all District 96 students will start the school year. All students in grades 1-5, should report to their classrooms at 8:25 a.m. and will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. The first bell rings at 8:15 a.m. and the second bell rings at 8:25 a.m. Students must be in their classrooms by 8:25 a.m. in order to be marked on time. Kindergarten has a separate schedule outlined below:

### **Kindergarten First Day Schedule:**

**Parents & Students Drop-in Kindergarten classrooms when convenient between 8:25 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – Kindergarten parents and students can attend the First Day of School Assembly on the back blacktop.**

Thereafter, AM Kindergarten will meet from 8:25 a.m.-11:20 a.m. and PM Kindergarten will meet from 12:10-3:05 p.m.

Grades 4 & 5 line up at the main entrance walkway. Students in Kindergarten and Second Grade line up at the East entrance near the kindergarten classroom. Kindergarten students line up on the driveway. Second grade students line up next to the brick wall. Third graders form a line next to the playground equipment in the back of the school. First graders enter the building through the main entrance and line up in the hallway outside the school office. Teachers will be outside and inside the school assisting students with line up procedures. Students should not arrive to school before 8:10 a.m. Supervision is not provided before 8:10 a.m. Please do not come to school before 8:10 a.m.

The First Day of School Assembly will be held Tuesday, August 30th from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. on the back blacktop. Teachers and students are required to attend this assembly. Parents are welcome to attend as well. Kindergarten students and their parents are encouraged to come back to Ames at 10:30 a.m. for the assembly. The Ames School staff will be introduced and important school information will be shared. We hope you can attend!



### **Class Lists**

Class lists will be posted on the front doors of Ames School on Friday, August 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.



## Student Pictures

Student pictures will be taken on Thursday, September 8, 2011. Information regarding the cost of the various packages will be sent home with your children on the first day of school.



## Calculators for Math Program

Each teacher will have a classroom set of calculators. You do not need to purchase one for your child.



## School Hours

School Hours:

- A.M. (Grades 1-5) **8:25 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.** (First bell at 8:15 a.m.)
- A. M. (KDG only) **8:25 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.** ( First bell at 8:15 a.m.)
- P.M. ( KDG only) **12:10 - 3:05 p.m.**
- P.M. (Grades 1-5) **12:35 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.** (First bell at 12:30 p.m.)

Supervision is **not provided** on the playground before these times. We have teachers who serve on door duty at each entrance before school- 8:10 a.m.-8:25 a.m. and after school 3:05 p.m.-3:20 p.m. Students are expected to go home promptly when dismissed for lunch and at 3:05 p.m.



## Bicycles

Students in grades K-5 are permitted to ride their bicycles to Ames School as long as they obey the bicycle safety rules and lock their bicycles to the bicycle rack (see parent handbook for specific details). Students in grades K-2 are permitted to ride their bicycles to school if accompanied by a parent. Students and parents must walk their bicycles when on school premises for safety reasons.



## Physical Examinations

The Illinois School Code specifies that physical examinations are mandatory for elementary children entering kindergarten. **Each kindergartner must have his/her doctor's report of the mandated physical examination by the first day of school. No student will be admitted without this completed requirement.** Exceptions to this regulation are made only for those students whose parents or guardians have filed an annual written objection to a physical examination based upon religious grounds with the building principal.



## School Records

The law governing student school records requires us to advise you that no person outside of the district may see any of the material in your child's file without a signed permission slip from you. This rule also applies to the transfer of records for those children moving from our district. You may review your child's file whenever you wish by making an appointment with your child's teacher or principal.



## Student Absences

Good attendance at school is an important factor in ensuring academic success. If your child must be absent due to illness, we ask you to **notify the office at (708) 447-0759 between 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. to report the absence.** If your child becomes ill during lunch, please contact the office.



## Lunch at School

Students can stay at school for lunch or go home for lunch. Students who are going home for lunch must indicate they are doing so during morning attendance. We have a staff member check students out before leaving the building. School policy indicates that any student may be denied the privilege of staying for lunch if he/she fails to comply with reasonable regulations for lunchroom/playground behavior. Milk is available for \$.10 per carton. Milk tickets are available for purchase in the office.



## Instrumental Music

District 96 provides both string and wind instrumental instruction. String and wind instrumental instruction begin in fifth grade. Both programs continue through eighth grade. These lessons are optional. Parents must pay for the instrument. Information regarding this program will be given at a meeting at Hauser Junior High School on Wednesday, September 14<sup>h</sup> from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 p.m.



## PTA

Parents, administrators and teachers working together create an exceptional learning environment. Please become a member of the Ames PTA! The Ames School PTA Co-Presidents are Lisa Hennelly- (708) 447-6948 email- [lhennelly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhennelly@sbcglobal.net) and Lisa Freel- (708) 443-5678 or email- [freel@prodigy.net](mailto:freel@prodigy.net). Feel free to contact either one of them with questions about the Ames School PTA.



## Fall Parent Night

The Ames Elementary School Fall Parent Night will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.. We hope you can attend!



## School Parties

It is customary in District 96 schools to limit parties during the school year to those that will not interfere with the educational program. Parents are asked not to send toys or treats on a child's birthday or on holidays throughout the school years. Although the desire to supply treats may be motivated by generosity, the act interferes with the learning process and may become disruptive. Invitations to parties held outside the school may be distributed at school **only** if each child in the class has been invited. Thank you for your cooperation in observing this request.



## Ames Security System

Once students enter the building, all doors will be locked from the outside. Students and teachers will be able to exit the building through any door in the event of an emergency. Parents and visitors must come to the front door, ring the bell, and wait to be identified. A video camera located in the monitoring device transmits a picture of the visitor to the office. Please look at the black box so we can identify you. Once you have been identified, the door will be opened. **All visitors must report to the office** to sign in and receive a visitor's identification badge. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but the safety of our children must come first.



## Traffic Safety

The safety of our students is of prime importance. We will continue traffic interventions around the Ames School campus. Our detailed traffic safety plan will be sent home with students on the first day of school. Please review this plan as our traffic regulations will be strictly adhered to in order to maintain safety for all. Remember, the **NO PARKING/NO STANDING ZONES** include all of Southcote Road between the student crosswalks. If you are driving your child to school please drop your child off at the main entrance walkway. **Please do not drop-off or pick-up your child on the parking lot located behind the school.**



## After School Program

The PAV YMCA and Riverside District 96 have partnered to provide quality before and after school programming for the 2011-12 school year. The program will be housed at Ames, Blythe Park, Central and Hollywood. Please contact Mary Fehrman at (708) 749-0606 ext. 34 for more information.



## Communication

Communication between school and home is crucial to the success of our students. To find out about current happenings, District 96 offers an electronic Wednesday E-Backpack for the district [www.district96.org](http://www.district96.org) and each of its schools. The E- Backpack will be updated every Wednesday; please review the latest flyers. Please note that all teacher pages will be updated on the first Wednesday of the month, but may be updated on additional Wednesdays as needed. The Ames School web page is located at: <http://www.district96.org/ames/links/>

**Thank you for your attention to this important information. Please keep this newsletter in a convenient spot for future reference. Questions- contact Ms. Colleen Lieggi-Principal (708) 447-0759 or [lieggic@district96.org](mailto:lieggic@district96.org)**