



**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY
WILLIAM S. HACKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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“Teaching, Learning and Achieving Together . . . Embrace the Dream.”



GO HAWKS!

A Professional Learning Community

August 3, 2017

Dear Hackett Middle School Families:

It is hard to believe that it is August and the beginning of a new school year is right around the corner. I hope your summer vacation has been enjoyable, and like myself you are eager for the start of school in September. **The first day of the 2017-18 school year is Tuesday, September 5th.**

As many of you may already be aware, this past spring a state court ordered that all School Improvement Funds originally granted to schools placed in Receivership be restored immediately. This included William S. Hackett Middle School and is exciting news for us. Although Hackett Middle School was removed from the state’s Receivership list in 2016 due to our students’ overall academic gains, our school will utilize the additional funding for the upcoming school year to continue our progress and provide all students with a rigorous and enriching academic experience.

With the return of our Receivership funding, Hackett Middle School will once again be extending the school day in 2017-18. The additional instruction time will enable all students to be assigned a daily Enrichment period to meet with teachers and get additional academic support.

Hackett Middle School will extend the school day by 15 minutes in order to provide all students with additional time for academic support and enrichment. Under this revised schedule, school will start 10 minutes earlier than in previous years, and extend by an additional five minutes.

- **Our school day will officially begin at 7:50 a.m.**
- **Breakfast will begin at 7:25 a.m.; students should enter through the rear cafeteria doors.**
- **For students not eating breakfast at school, the main entrance will open at 7:30 a.m.**

Dismissal times for Hackett Middle School have also changed.

- **From Monday through Friday, all students will be dismissed at 3:05 p.m.**

A highlight of this year’s schedule is the return of the daily Enrichment Period. Each day of the week, students will have time within their schedule to meet with all of their teachers. Students can utilize this time for additional instruction and reinforcement, to make up missed or outstanding assignments, or to provide peer mentoring and tutoring.

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The Hackett Middle School Summer Orientation for all grades will be **Thursday, August 24** from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Orientation will begin with a general session in the auditorium to review our academic expectations. This is an excellent time for parents, guardians and family members to learn more about the changes being implemented at Hackett Middle School and to ask questions. Families will have ample time to tour the school, meet with teachers and begin preparing student lockers.

Student schedules and locker assignments also will be provided at orientation. Please note that schedules for all students and their parents or guardians who are unable to attend orientation will be provided on the first day of school. During orientation, parents, guardians and students will have time to become better acclimated with various school-related activities, including updating pertinent school information, signing up for extended-day programs, meeting with representatives from CDTA, becoming a member of the Hackett Middle School PTA, learning more about our various school-related committees, and more.

Student supply lists are available on the Hackett Middle School website – <https://hackett.albany.k12.ny.us/> -- as well as on our school's page on the district website – <http://www.albanyschools.org/schools/hackettmiddle/hackett.htm>.

The Summer Transition Camp is a five-day program open to all students in grades 6-7 who will be attending Hackett Middle School. Summer Transition Camp is designed to help students get off to a smooth start at our school. The Summer Transition Camp will be held **August 21-25** from 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day. Students will have opportunities to reinforce and enrich their ELA and math skills, learn strategies to enhance study skills and note-taking abilities, and engage in various team-building activities designed to promote a safe and secure learning environment. A registration form for the Summer Transition Camp is included within this mailing. Parents interested in having their child participate in the Summer Transition Camp are encouraged to complete the registration form and return it to the Hackett Middle School main office. Parents may also register their children at school on the first day of the Summer Transition Camp. We hope that all incoming students take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Similar to last year, we would like to conclude the first full-week of school by hosting an outdoor barbecue on **Friday, September 8**. Students purchasing a school lunch on this day will receive a hamburger or hot dog, bag of chips, fresh fruit, milk and an ice cream treat. To ensure a successful barbecue, we encourage parents and guardians to volunteer to assist in preparing the lunches. If you are interested, please contact the Hackett Middle School PTA at hackettpta@gmail.com.

Once again, I am excited and looking forward to the start of the school year. Please feel free to contact the school should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Paolino
Principal