

August 3, 2009

Dear Families,

It's time to extend a "Welcome Back" to Horace Mann for another school year. I hope your summer has been a time for family and fun and that you're ready for another productive school year.

Horace Mann is ready for the students' return. Thank you to Mrs. Duman, Mr. Fedor, Mr. Cadile and Mr. Keith for all their hard work this summer. The building is clean, books and supplies are in place, and we're ready for the 2009-2010 school year.

Some changes will occur in the fifth and sixth grade classes. This year, we have departmentalized the core subjects so that the students will receive a more comprehensive educational experience. Mrs. Bungo will teach Math to all fifth and sixth grade students, Mr. Brode will teach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts, Mr. Rado will teach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science and Health, and Mr. Freeberg will teach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies. We have made this change so that the students will have the same instructor for fifth and sixth grade subjects. This should result in a more seamless transition between the grades and a strong focus on the various content areas. The teachers will be very familiar with the students and better able to help them achieve academically over the two years.

We will continue this year with the Special Subject Rotation Schedule. The first day of school is Day 1, and will follow the same rotation pattern as last year. When there are no classes on a school day, the next school day will follow the rotation sequence. For example, we do not have school on Labor Day, Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, so Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> will be rotation Day 2, and the specials will follow the Day 2 schedule.

Birthday celebrations will again be held on the third Wednesday of each month. August birthdays will be celebrated with the September group, July birthdays will be celebrated with the January group, and June birthdays will be celebrated in May. Please refer to the IASD Wellness policy when planning a birthday treat. You may also donate a book or game to your child's classroom to honor their birthday.

The Indiana Area School District has adopted a new student accounting system, PowerSchool. This will replace Edline. The teachers and staff are in the process of learning this system. More information about PowerSchool will be sent home soon.

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise Dragich  
Principal