

# ALICE DEAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL NUMBERS

**MAIN OFFICE:**  
202-282-0100

**COUNSELING SERVICES:**  
MS. MCFARLAND - 7TH GRADE  
202-282-0257

**MS. HERNANDEZ - 8TH GRADE**  
202-282-0256

**MR. SANTIAGO -  
SST COORDINATOR,  
ELL & SPECIAL ED COUNSELOR**  
202-282-0258

## Develop Good Habits of Mind!

1. **Persisting**
2. **Managing impulsivity**
3. **Listening with understanding & empathy**
4. **Thinking flexibly**
5. **Thinking about thinking**
6. **Striving for accuracy**
7. **Questioning & posing problems**
8. **Applying past knowledge to new situations**
9. **Thinking and communicating with clarity & precision**
10. **Gathering data through all senses**
11. **Creating, imagining, & innovating**
12. **Responding with wonderment & awe**
13. **Taking responsible risks**
14. **Finding humor**
15. **Thinking interdependently**
16. **Remaining open to continuous learning.**

(Costa & Kallick, 2000)

## Welcome, Deal Vikings!

Dear Deal students and families:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2007 - 2008 school year! You are the first group of students to be part of Alice Deal Middle School. According to the 2007 DC CAS scores, we continue to be the highest performing middle school in the entire city!

Right before your eyes, our building will transform into a top-notch facility that will match our top-notch educational program! You can track the progress of Deal's modernization by checking on the Deal PTA website ([www.dealpta.org](http://www.dealpta.org)). Soon it will have a link to pictures, as well as Heery Construction's

## Save the Date 7th Graders! August 24th @ 10am

We are so excited to have you with us! One of the biggest concerns for parents and students during the transition from elementary school to middle school is that students may "get lost" in a larger school setting. **Have no fear!** We have been studying what other good middle schools do to better transition new students. Last year we expanded the team concept to create smaller learning communities for students, as well as create structures for improved par-

ent-teacher communication's comments on our progress.

The teachers at Alice Deal are extremely dedicated educators who possess passion and expertise in their content areas. The core teams for this year are listed on the last page of the newsletter. Each team has a team leader who will serve as the main point of contact for communication. The team leaders have asterisks behind their names. All the teachers are committed to making sure that the academic program continues to progress at rigorous levels.

In order to help ensure a successful school year, take the time to communicate regularly with your child's teachers and counselors.

ent-teacher communications. This year, Alice Deal is proud to announce 7th grade orientation!

On Friday, August 24th, 7th graders are invited to school from 10am - noon to meet their teachers and have an orientation before the 8th graders arrive on Monday. This will be a nice time for you to meet your teachers and get your schedules.

The opening session will

Melissa M. Kim, Principal  
Manuel Dacoba, Assistant Principal  
Gwendolyn Logan, Assistant Principal  
Joyce Brooks, Special Education Coordinator

## Principal's Message



Speaking directly with the persons most involved in your child's school day will expedite the resolution of most concerns.

Children at the middle school level may ask parents to be less involved in their school life. But research tells us that adolescent children are more successful with strong parent involvement. We need to keep each other informed for the best interest of the child, no matter what they may prefer. (continued on page 2)



### Important Date Reminders

- August 24th, 10 AM,  
7th Grade Orientation
- August 27th, 8:30 AM,  
First Day of School
- September 6th, 6:30 PM,  
PTA reception
- September 27th,  
6:30 - 9:15 PM,  
Back to School Night

## Principal's Message (continued)

(continued from page 1)  
Teachers, counselors, and administrators can be reached by calling the main office or by email. We try to respond to calls and emails within 48 hours. On the rare occasion a call is not returned, any of the administrators will be happy to assist you.

We are committed to building even stronger relationships with parents and families. I encourage each parent to be an active member of the PTA. The PTA is our

strongest and most dynamic partner! Each family has some talent to share with the Deal community, and the PTA is a great way to contribute. This also is a great way to model civic engagement for your child.

We would like to extend a very special welcome to our seventh graders and to our new students. We are excited to have you join the Deal family.

Please review the Deal Expectations listed on the last

page. Following these simple guidelines will ensure school success.

I wish you all a very successful and productive school year! See you August 27th!

Melissa M. Kim  
Principal

(202) 282 - 0100

Melissa.Kim@k12.dc.us

“THINK

GLOBALLY.

LISTEN

COMPASSIONATELY.

ACT

INCLUSIVELY.”

Q: Is there an After-Care program?

A: No. Although we have various extra-curricular activities and tutorial sessions that are scheduled with teachers, we do not host an official program. Unless students are under the direct supervision of a teacher after school, they will be dismissed at 3:15. As there is no personnel to supervise students after 3:30, please pick up your children on time.

Q: Can I just call if my child is absent or tardy?

A: No. We have a specific form for tardy/ absences that needs to be submitted on the day the child returns to school. Copies of this form will be included in the First Day packet and can be printed from the website at [www.dealpta.org](http://www.dealpta.org). You will also receive a computerized phone message alerting you to your child's absence. Please only call when your child will be absent for more than one day.

Q: Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

A: Clear and open communication is essential for student success. If the question is specific to a class, please contact the teacher first. Your child may also be able to clarify information! Homeroom teachers and counselors also play a large role in the child's day. And, of course, any of the administrators will be able to assist you.



## The Alice Deal PTA welcomes you!

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to play an active role in our school's community. This year is special at Deal. As we transition toward our new identity as Alice Deal Middle School, we have only two grades, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, for the first time. With this smaller number of students, we have all the more reason to become a closer community.

This year the Deal PTA will strive to achieve several goals:

- Raise funds to provide academic, sports, and leadership programs that support and enrich our children's experience at Deal
- Provide information and avenues of communication between the Deal parent body, the school administration, and the larger public school community
- Provide many opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's academic and social life at Deal -

especially at this important age for adolescents when that connection is vital.

We invite you to play an active role in the Deal PTA and your student's Deal experience this year. Be sure to complete and return the forms your child brings home on the first day of school. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the first PTA Meeting/Welcome Reception on September 6. Join us to meet and welcome new families and new as well as returning staff. And (continued on page 3)

## Preparing for the 1st Day of School

### 1st Day

### Procedures...

For those of you who are joining us for the first time, you may be wondering what to expect on the first day of school; it is natural to feel nervous. Take a breath - don't worry. There will be plenty of teachers and friendly 8th grade students around to help direct and guide you to where you need to be. Just remember to report to school by 8:30 AM.

On the first day, all students will pick up their schedules at grade-specific tables out on the front lawn. There will be signs and teachers guiding you. After picking up your schedules at the table, 8th graders will report directly to their 1st period class. Seventh graders will enter the building and remain with their team teachers in the auditorium. We will meet there for a brief orientation with the teachers, counselor, and school administrators.

From there, you will proceed through the rest of your schedule. You will attend six classes and a lunch/recess period. Your teachers and administrators will be in the hallways during each change of class to help you find your way. Also, there is plenty of time to get from one class to another.

All you need to do is get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and get to school on time. If you do that part, you will be prepared for a smooth first day!

### Come to school prepared with the following:

1. A 3-ring, 2-inch binder, with dividers for each of the five different courses.
2. A clear pencil case with a few pencils and pens.
3. Loose-leaf paper for the binder.
4. Ruler, calculator, & graph paper.
5. Colored Pencils . NO markers please.
6. A box of tissues for your HR teacher.
7. Summer reading assignment and book logs.
8. A positive & open attitude.

## Deal Charter Bus Schedule

AM Schedule

Route #s	Departure/ Times	Arrival/ Times
D-32	Mt. Pleasant / 7:58	Deal / 8:20
D-32	Mt. Pleasant / 8:03	Deal / 8:30
D-33	16th & AR / 8:03	Deal / 8:30
D-31	16th & Eastern / 8:03	Deal / 8:30
D-34	14th & CO / 8:15	Deal / 8:30
D-34	14th & CO / 8:15	Deal / 8:30

PM Schedule

Route #s	Departure/ Times	Arrival/ Times
D-32	Deal / 3:30	Mt. Ple / 3:50
D-32	Deal / 3:30	Mt. Ple / 3:50
D-33	Deal / 3:30	16th & AR / 3:45
D-31	Deal / 3:30	16th & Eastern / 3:45
D-34	Deal / 3:30	14th & CO / 3:52
D-34	Deal / 3:30	14th & CO / 3:46

### BREAKFAST & LUNCH PRICES

**Breakfast - Free**

**Lunch- \$1.50**

Students who were eligible for free/reduced lunch last year will be served for the first few days until the new applications have been processed.

\*\* !! We request that **all parents** complete the Free/Reduced Lunch Applications. This is vital for Deal to qualify for Title I funds!! \*\*

## PTA (continued)

( continued from page 2) don't miss Back to School Night, Thursday, September 27th. This is your first chance to meet your child's teachers and to learn about the year's course curricula.

You can count on the PTA to keep you informed. You'll soon begin receiving a monthly PTA newsletter, mailed to your home. In addition, you may:

- Visit our website, [www.dealpta.org](http://www.dealpta.org), for current news and information
- Join the listserv by emailing DealPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and ask to be signed up. You'll receive important news, announcements and reminders by email. This is the best way to stay up-to-date!

We look forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions, or would like to become involved with the PTA, please contact Ruth Ernst at 332-7921 or [melickernst@verizon.net](mailto:melickernst@verizon.net) or Sally Greenberg at 364-2531 or [sallygreenberg@mac.com](mailto:sallygreenberg@mac.com)

We're always looking for new ideas!

Ruth Ernst & Sally Greenberg,

PTA Co-Presidents



## Summer Reading!

Hello Students! Your English teachers hope you have been having a relaxing and “readingful” summer.

We wanted to remind you about the procedure for your required summer reading. For each of the four books you read, complete the Reading Response Log found on the last page of the reading guide. Your log should be neat and attractive. These logs will be collected during the 1st week of school. Also, remember that during the first week of school you will be tested on the required book for your grade level. If you haven’t started, it’s not too late! The book list is available on [www.dealpta.org](http://www.dealpta.org) and also at the Politics and Prose book store.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and happy reading!

2007 Teams		
7A	7B	
Ms. McCullough	Mr. Hughes*	
Ms. Abbas	Mr. Brandenburg	
Ms. Mason	Ms. Wells	7/8 C
Mr. Geremia*	Mr. Harris	Ms. Spann-Goode
		Mr. Mungai
8A	8B	Ms. Lerum*
Mr. Klein	Ms. Suarez	Ms. Purcell
Ms. Childs	Ms. Sweeney*	
Mr. Aguilera	Ms. Hampton	
Ms. Mostoller*	Ms. Simpson-Wayne	

### Alice Deal Expectations

1. Respect one another.
2. Be on time.
3. Be prepared for learning.
4. Dress for success.
5. Hold each other accountable.
6. Do the right thing!

### GET INVOLVED!!

Extracurricular activities are a great way to get to know other students and interact with teachers in a different way! The relationships you build in clubs may be the ones you hold onto for many years to come! Following is a list of some extracurricular options. A more complete and detailed list will be posted on the school web site and shared with students after teachers and sponsors have created their schedules for this year.

Band - Orchestra - Jazz Band - 7th & 8th Grade Chorus - Show Choir - Cheerleading - Math Counts - Yearbook Club - National Jr. Honor Society - Recycling Club - Indoor & Outdoor Track - Volleyball - Girls & Boys Basketball - Chess Club - Student Council - Fencing - Girl's & Boys Soccer - Stage Crew - Debate- Peer Mediators - Drama Club - Softball - Baseball - Golf - Chinese Club - Chinese Dance Club - Viking Webmasters - Art Club - Spanish Club - Tutoring - Latin American Youth Club

## Teachers Lead the Way to IB!

### Level I report by Ms. Wells

“But what exactly is IB and how is it going to help Deal students?” This question was passed around the group of Deal teachers attending the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme training conference on a warm July night in Princeton, New Jersey. The conference started the next morning and it seemed as though none of us could come up with a concise answer. The next few days in Princeton dramatically changed our understanding.

IB is a philosophy, not a forced curriculum. It is a better way to teach the rigorous content that Deal already offers to every student. In one phrase, IB gives students “global perspective.” The goal is to develop real global citizenship in the student body. In today’s complex and increasingly interconnected international atmosphere, isolated learning without clear perspective just doesn’t work.

Instead of simply being able to define an idea they have learned at school, an IB student will consider how people from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds perceive the same idea and why. Additionally, IB philosophy pushes students to analyze the influences on

their own perspective, teaching them to answer the question, “Why do I think this way or that way?”

The orientation session gave us the IB big picture. The Level I training sessions are where the hard work started! Each of us attended training for the subject we teach in order to help us focus our understanding into tangible strategies for our classes. Teachers from all over the world and from every kind of school were present, and we got right down to thorough and meaningful collaboration with our new international friends.

Every one of us learned more than we could have ever imagined, but we were both excited and proud to find out that we have already implemented many IB-relevant learning experiences in our school. Of course, there is much work to be done, many modifications to be made, and a whole lot of paperwork to complete before we can really call ourselves an IB school, but the IB seed has already sprouted at Deal! We will not rest until we have fully developed our students, our school, and ourselves! Needless to say, we anxiously await the new school year so we can put all of our fresh ideas to work at Deal.

### Level 2 report by Mr. Hughes

The International Baccalaureate Level II teachers completed their training in Austin, Texas, during July and are now ready to teach with an acclaimed methodology at Deal. The teachers spent time learning how to write unit plans of instruction with the IB Middle School Years approach of seeing a curriculum through “lenses.” The five lenses (or themes) are: *approaches to learning, community and service, man the maker, environment, and health and social education.* These lenses allow teachers at Deal to continue to teach the same material as in a normal school, but with unifying themes that encourage children to think expansively.

When the IB organization announced that they would no longer allow schools to offer IB as an elitist “school-within-a-school” program, Deal teachers were particularly proud because our school had decided last year that IB was for all Deal students.

