



Sunset Middle School

*Advanced Academics with an
emphasis in the Arts*

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Frequently Asked Questions for Incoming 6th graders and Current Students... Or anything you could or would want to know about starting a new school year. ☺

When does school start for the year 2011-12?

All students at Sunset MS begin classes bright and early on Thursday, August 18th at 7:35 a.m.

When will we get our schedules?

Students may begin picking up schedules on Monday, August 15 through Wednesday, August 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the cafeteria. Incoming and new student tours are available by National Junior Honor Society Students during schedule pickup times.

What if I didn't get the classes I signed up for?

Remember that we have four quarters of elective options, so you may not have gotten your first choices in the first quarter but there are many more during the year. We worked extremely hard to make sure students received their top four choices during the course of the year, a year long elective or semester long class are considered number 1 choices.

I signed up for band, choir, orchestra or Spanish and it's not on my schedule, what do I do?

Go to either the counselling office or main office once you pick up your schedule and we will fix the schedule so you don't miss the first days of class.

How do I know what supplies I need?

For the first day of school bring only a pen/pencil and notebook. Supply lists are at the following stores already: Target, Super WalMart, Office Depot and Office Max

Will I need to buy a planner?

You will not need to buy a planner when you get your supplies. But you WILL need to buy a Sunset Planner with handbook inside when you pick up your schedules. Planners are \$3.

When do we get our lockers?

During the first week of school your core one teachers will help you select your locker in a location close to that classroom. Everyone has their own individual locker, no one shares and definitely NO ONE gets anyone else's combination.

Will my instrument fit in the locker?

We ask that all band students drop off their instruments in the band room prior to going to your locker. The band is located immediately to the left when you enter the front doors into the lobby.

Can I decorate my locker?

Students may decorate their locker, using magnets, appropriate pictures for school, and mirrors. No markers are allowed inside or outside of the new lockers. In the past we allowed decorations on birthdays, however we will no longer be allowing birthday decorations for two reasons. One reason is that we will have brand new lockers and we want to keep them in perfect condition. Second reason is that in the past decorations became frayed and were not taken down in a timely manner which made our halls look too messy. We will do birthday announcements in morning to celebrate the day.

Can I bring my cell phone, IPOD, MP3, or video game to school?

Electronics can be used during lunch, but not during class (unless a teacher has a reason for their lesson), students are solely responsible for anything they bring from home. Cell phones are allowed before and after school, also during lunch; however they are NOT to be used and must be turned off during class time.

How will I know where to catch my bus?

When students come in to pick up class schedules there are bus instructions, maps and explanations of the time and place students are picked up. If you have specific questions call transportation at: 303-682-7228. If a student needs to ride a bus with a friend for whatever reason there is a form that needs to be filled out through transportation about a week in advance called: Space Availability Request Form. The school can not give permission, you must go through transportation.

I get a ride to school, how does drop off and pick up work?

Parents are asked to enter the large parking lot at the south end, form one line close to the sidewalk and pull as far forward as possible before making a stop. Students are to exit the completely stopped car onto the sidewalk. Parents are not to double park and students are NEVER to cross traffic in the parking lot. We ask that cars go very slow, be extremely patient and keep the process of moving forward, stopping and then exit the lot using the appropriate lane for either south or north. Another option for drop off and pick up is to use the street behind the park in the back of the school that runs along side the tennis courts on S. Judson St. Students can be dropped off next to the sidewalk and walk down the sidewalk to the back of the school.

What's the earliest I can get into the building?

The lobby doors are typically unlocked by 6:30 a.m. All other doors into the school do not open until 7:25 a.m. For the safety of our school, teachers are next to door when unlocked at 7:25, all exterior doors are relocked at 7:33 except for the front doors.

What will I do about lunches?

On the first day of school you can either bring \$2.50 for hot school lunch, or bring a sack lunch from home. Parents can put money on a students account by accessing www.stvrain.eatschoollunch.com all you need is your students 6 digit ID number (which you can get from our the schools administrative assistant). If you are an incoming 6th grade student your account rolls into Sunset MS from your elementary school.

Does Sunset serve breakfast?

Yes. Breakfast is served from 7:05 to 7:25. The cost is: \$1.50 or subsidized through the free and/or reduced federal meal program.

If I'm a new student what happens if I get lost?

Teachers take the first few days of school to review all the details of the building, schedule and classes. In 6th grade teachers walk their classes from place to place for the first few days until students are comfortable. Any student can stop an adult at ANYTIME and ask for help.

Will we have a Back to School night in the fall?

Yes. At Sunset we usually have an evening where parents come in and follow their students schedule, get to know the teachers and visit with administration. The date of this event is to be determined, but typically is held the second or third week after school has started, that way teachers know the students and can better connect with parents. We will communicate the exact date once we have it.

What if I want to do sports after school?

Sunset has intramural sports programs for \$55 each sport. Girls should sign up for Volleyball when they pick up schedules or during lunch the first week of school. The next sport in mid Oct. is Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling and then track. All programs are about 6 weeks in length and sign ups are during lunches. Students should listen for details on morning announcements. Sunset does not have a football, but we do offer flag football as a club after school for about 4 weeks. Students who are interested in football are advised to contact either

the City of Longmont, or Niwot Youth Sports. Sunset does partner with the City of Longmont to offer fall and spring coed soccer leagues, information in announcements.

Are there other things to do after school?

OH YES! We have an art club, drama club, geography club, cross country club in the fall, games club, dance club, MESA. Most grades have after school help (ASH) clubs to help with homework and tutoring. All of the details and person(s) to contact for the various activities will be in the packets that are picked up when students get their schedules.

Do I have to get shots (immunizations) before school starts?

Yes. New requirements for 2011-12 state that students must have a Tdap before entering middle school. Immunization requirements for the 2011-12 school year are: 5/4 DTP,DTAP, DT; 1 TDAP; 4 POLIO; 2 MMR; 3 HEPATITIS B; 1 VARICELLA (or your child has had the disease) if a student receives their first Varicella shot after the age of 13, a second shot is required within 4-8 weeks.

What should I do if I see something before, during or after school that doesn't seem right?

PLEASE let someone know; either your parents, Ms. Macy, Mr. Young, a counselor or teacher. If you are not comfortable telling someone in person contact one of the administrators over e-mail, or leave an anonymous note with the details in one of the principal's boxes on their office door. The person reporting an incident is ALWAYS kept anonymous and their identities are never revealed by staff members.

Why is there a police car at the school sometimes?

Sunset MS and Altona MS share the services of an officer, from the City of Longmont. Officer Scott Pierce is our School Resource Officer (SRO). We work closely with Officer Pierce to make sure our school is always running smoothly and safe. Parents are also encouraged to contact him at any time with questions or concerns. He can be reached at 303-651-8555 and dispatch will get a message to him immediately.

I heard the school does a magazine drive, what's that about?

In September we conduct the only school wide fundraiser. We encourage students and parents to participate, but we also understand that is not possible for all families. There are many ways to contribute to our school if this is not something you are able to or choose to do. Our students sell magazine and some gift items through Golden Services, whom we have worked closely with for the last seven years. Magazine subscriptions can be purchased or renewed through our drive. The school earns a substantial amount and we are then able to offset field trips, help students participate in activities, we buy supplemental materials for the classrooms, and help teachers purchase engaging instructional materials for their lessons. This is a separate fundraiser from the music department and the Parent Advisory Council. Some parents choose to not purchase the magazines and just put a donation in the magazine envelope, that is appreciated just as much!

What is the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The PAC is the like the PTO, or any parent organization that works to help advise our school's administration on what is best for our students and community. Sunset's administration works closely with the PAC to communicate what is going on within our school, and to solicit ideas, advise and guidance about projects, technology, school achievement goals and/or anything that can make Sunset a better school. The PAC invites all parents to participate in whatever they are able to be involved. There are monthly meetings and details of events on the PAC website that can be accessed through our Sunset Website Home page.

Is Sunset an Open Enrollment school?

YES! As long as we haven't reached capacity within a grade level we are happy to accept and welcome new students.

How do I get Spartan gear?

Order forms will be handed out in the fall and again in the spring. We offer a variety of Spartan Gear, hoodies, t-shirts, sweats, pajama pants and more!