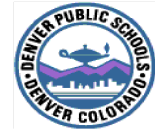




DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Morey Middle School
840 East 14th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218
Telephone: 720-424-0700



June 13, 2022

Dear Morey Families:

We are so excited to welcome you and your student to school this August! Below is information about the new school year, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Registration: This year, you can do all of your registering online, including verifying student information, paying school fees, ordering PE uniforms, etc. To register online, primary legal guardians of current DPS students must have an active DPS Parent Portal account. Visit myportal.dpsk12.org to sign up, or to check that your account is active and ready. For more information on how to complete online registration, visit schoolchoice.dpsk12.org.

If you'd like to do in-person registration at Morey, plan to come to the school during one of the following times:

<i>Thursday, August 11:</i>	12:00 to 4:00 pm
<i>Friday, August 12:</i>	8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Contact leah_prochnow@dpsk12.org with any questions about registration.

Electives: Being a small school, we only have four elective classes (PE, STEM, Art & Drama) for our 8th grade students and 4.5 electives for 7th grade (we offer health half-time). **These two grades will not need to pick their electives this year**, because they will receive the four available electives at some point in the school year.

For our larger 6th grade class, we will have 6 elective options, and **if you did not fill out your elective preferences in May**, please fill out this [6th grade Welcome Survey](#) to list your preferences. Again, picking electives is ONLY for 6th grade students.

We plan to offer after-school enrichment classes like band and foreign languages for anyone interested. If you want to host an after-school club at Morey, please contact Monique_roberts-gibson@dpsk12.org. We will let you know more about after-school activities in August.

Back-to-School BBQ: Our annual Back-to-School Community BBQ is set for Thursday, August 18 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. This is a chance to meet Morey teachers, students and other parents, and learn about different enrichment opportunities. Students can also pick up their new class schedules this night.

Math Placement Testing: We try very hard to place students in appropriately-leveled math classes before the first day of school. All of our current 6th & 7th grade students at Morey took a math placement test in May with our teachers. For incoming 6th grade families, we asked their 5th grade

teachers to give the district 6th grade math placement test and submit a math placement recommendation to us. We have about 70% of incoming 6th grade families with a test and/or recommendation. If you are new to Morey (incoming 6th, 7th, or 8th grade) and your child has not taken a math placement test yet, we will offer placement testing during registration August 11 and 12. More information will come on the exact testing times in early August. If you have any questions, contact bertie_fiz@dpsk12.org. She is out of the office until early August, though.

School Calendar: Even though Morey is an innovation school, we follow the [Denver Public Schools' calendar](#). The only exception is our staggered grade level start dates (see "First Days" below) and the last day of school. For Morey, our last day of school is Thursday, June 1st, instead of the half day most DPS students have on 6/2/23.

First days: The first day for **6th grade students is Monday, August 22**, we call it "Morey-entation." Our 6th graders will use this day to orient themselves to the building, learn how to use lockers, and build community with their classmates.

The first day for **7th grade is Tuesday, August 23**, joining our 6th grade students. The first day for **8th grade is Wednesday, August 24**, joining our 6th and 7th grade students.

School Start/End Times: As we move closer to the Board of Education's initiative that all secondary schools start later, Morey's bell schedule is 8:50 am - 3:50 pm each day.

We want to know how we can support our families with supervision. Please [take this survey](#) if you are in need of before-school and/or after-school care. (If you're a 7th or 8th grade guardian, you may have already filled out this same survey in May.) We will try our best to provide some kind of morning or afternoon supervision program at a discounted rate, depending on the needs of the community.

Bussing: We will have DPS buses next year, but families must OPT INTO transportation through [Parent Portal](#) if they want to receive buses. In previous years, if your child was eligible for bussing, you automatically were signed up for transportation. That is not the case anymore (unless bussing is provided as an accommodation on your child's IEP.) You must OPT INTO transportation next year to get it.

Students identified as Highly Gifted & Talented (HGT) or Magnet Eligible qualify for bus transportation. Students identified as Gifted do not yet qualify for bussing, but we're hoping that will change in future years. If there is additional room on these HGT buses, students not automatically qualified for buses can fill out an exemption form on the transportation website and may be allowed on those HGT buses if there's open seats.

If you have questions, email transportation@dpsk12.org.

Regional Community Committees: Knowing Morey families come from all parts of the Denver area, our Parent Teacher Organization developed Regional Connection Communities (RCC) to facilitate events in your neighborhood so families can get to know one another.

Join us at the first Regional Connection Community (RCC) of the new year on August 13 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. We will hold Kickball in the Park at 5 different locations in Denver so that families from near or far can participate. Exact locations to be determined in August.

If you're interested in being the point person for your region's RCC's kickball event, please email MJ at Monique_Roberts-Gibson@dpsk12.net. She will help you get the equipment for your RCC's meetup.

Carpooling: Joining an RCC (info in note above) is a great opportunity to arrange carpooling to and from Morey. When you sign up for the RCC, you will be connected with other Morey families in your neighborhood and have access to the group email list to arrange carpooling.

School Supply List:

Use this link to find the [Morey 2022-23 school supply list](#). You can also order supplies online through Edukit, where you can get supplies delivered right to your home. Go to this [Edukit link](#) and search "Morey" to order your EduKit. Please note that there are grade-level specific kits.

Summer Enrichment: There is no Morey summer reading assignment - but we do want students to participate in the Summer of SORA reading program through DPS. There is a summer reading challenge kids can participate in - go to smore.com/gxew0 to sign up. Please watch the [Summer of Sora video](#) to learn about how to access the DPS online library.

Calendar of Events:

August 11 & 12	In-person registration (if unable to do it online)
August 13, 3:00	First Regional Community (RCC) event (locations TBD)
August 18, 5:00 pm	Morey Back-to-School Community BBQ (Morey blacktop)
August 22	First full day for 6th grade ONLY
August 23	First full day for 7th grade (6th grade comes)
August 24	First full day for 8th grade (6 & 7th grade comes)
September 5	Labor Day - No School
September 15, 5:30 pm	Back-to-School Night

Where to get more information

The school website, <http://morey.dpsk12.org>, has a lot of information and should be updated to reflect the 2022-23 school year by mid-August. Bookmark it as one of your favorites!

Among other things, you can get information on:

- School Supply List (link also included with this letter)
- School start and end times (8:50 am to 3:50 pm)
- Student systems and procedures
- Student handbook
- Information about our staff
- Carpool information through Regional Community Committees
- Link to add lunch money to your child's account

Frequently Asked Questions

I registered online. Do I still need to come into the school?

Nope! You can do everything online this year including verifying student information, paying school fees, ordering PE uniforms and applying for free & reduced lunch status. There are some things you will not be able to do online, like: meeting with PTO, preview sports and after-school club options. You are welcome to come to our Back to School BBQ on 8/18/23 and visit those tables to learn more about those programs. You could also call the front office at 720-424-0700 and someone will direct you to the right people.

How do I pay for school fees online?

Fees may be paid for through www.MySchoolBucks.com. In early August, Ms. Leah Prochnow, our school secretary, will invoice your student for school fees. This should generate an email notification to you with a link and directions for how to access MySchoolBucks and pay for those fees.

Fees pay for elective classes, our Discovery Week trips in late May, and pay for every novel your child will receive in Language Arts classes this year.

When does school start this year?

August 22, 8:50 am - 3:50 pm for **6th graders**

August 23, 8:50 am - 3:50 pm for **7th graders** (6th still comes)

August 24, 8:50 am - 3:50 pm for **8th graders** (6th & 7th still come)

Why do 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students all have different start dates?

Middle school can be a little intimidating for 6th grade students. Having a special day for 6th graders gives these students an opportunity to orient themselves to school prior to starting classes. We want to have additional time with the 7th grade students to also orient them to the school and practice lockers, as well.

What are the school office hours?

The office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. If you need to reach someone before or after hours, please leave a voicemail in the main office and the appropriate person will receive the message the next morning.

What is the Morey Back-to-School BBQ?

The Morey Back-to-School BBQ for the 2022-23 school year is Thursday, August 18 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This event is a chance for students, families, community members and Morey Middle School staff to come together to celebrate the new school year. You will have a chance to tour the building, as well, even though not all the teachers' classrooms will be fully set up by then.

Do I need to purchase school supplies?

You can find the [Morey 2022-23 school supply list here](#). You can also order supplies online through Edukit, where you can get supplies delivered right to your home. Go to [this link](#) and search "Morey" to order your EduKit.

When is Back-to-School Night at Morey?

It is Thursday, September 15 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. This is an opportunity to hear from school leadership, visit your child's classrooms, and hear about new and ongoing programs at Morey.

My child receives free and/or reduced lunch. Do I need to re-apply?

Yes, you will need to go to <https://www.myschoolapps.com/> and fill out an online form. You'll need to know your child's 6-digit DPS ID number to complete the application. If you need any help with the application, please contact our cafeteria manager at 720-339-9247. Lunch is no longer free for all students in 2022-23, so if you need a free or reduced lunch, you must apply.

My child is in the HGT program. How can I learn more about this program?

There will be a Highly Gifted & Talented Parent Orientation Night held one evening in late September. Once we get the date finalized on our schedule, we'll send out more information. Ms. Bertie Fiz, our HGT Coordinator, is also someone you could reach out for help with questions at bertie_fiz@dpsk12.org or 720-424-0706.

When will my child receive his/her schedule?

Your child's schedule will be provided at the Back-to-School BBQ, on August 18. If you cannot attend the BBQ, or your child misplaces their schedule from the BBQ, schedules will be provided on the first day of school.

Where can I get more information on your Morey's innovation plan?

Morey is an innovation school. We have some waivers through the district that helps us begin to personalize learning for students. You can find more information on our innovation plan at <http://morey.dpsk12.org>.

What is Morey's cell phone policy?

Students cannot carry a phone anywhere in the school building during school hours. Cell phones are to be locked in student lockers or left at home. This is the 6th year of our "no cell phones" policy. If parents need to reach their child, they call the main office, and we'll bring the kiddo to the office. This policy has literally been incredibly effective in lowering online bullying incidents, and promoting more social skills among our middle schoolers.

How do I pay for lunches?

Lunch may be paid for through www.MySchoolBucks.com. Once you're logged in, you will select "Cafeteria" to load money onto your child's account. School lunch used to be free the last two years during COVID, but will not be free in the 2022-23 school year. Breakfast will remain free for all students.

What other enrichment opportunities will be available DURING the school day?

Students have several opportunities for enrichment unique to Morey Middle School: Discovery Seminar, and Spring Discovery Week.

- **Discovery Seminar**
Students will have an opportunity to participate in a weekly enrichment class, known as *Discovery Seminars*. These classes are based upon unique staff skill sets and passions and will be offered dependent upon the level of student interest. Classes will begin the third week of September. Students will take a different Discovery Seminar each quarter.
- **Spring Discovery Week**
During *Spring Discovery Week*, students participate in four days of exploration of exciting opportunities. The goal is to provide students with unique experiences they might not normally have an opportunity to engage in outside of school, ranging from international trips, to touring unique spaces in Denver; from playing in a rock band to outdoor adventure experiences in the mountains. Teachers develop a four-day experience based on their passions and interests; students have an opportunity to identify the ones they most want offered. Based on interest, students then sign up for those Discovery opportunities that most appeal to them.

What other enrichment opportunities will be available BEFORE or AFTER the school day?

Based on early parent survey feedback, it sounds like families need BEFORE school care more than after-school care. Mr. Art Valdez will offer a "Morning Connections" from 7:30 - 8:45 every day for \$65 per month for families needing to drop off children before the school day. If more parent surveys come back showing a need for after-school care, we will try to provide that, as well, at a similar price.

PTO is organizing after-school club options for next year, like foreign language, karate, band, gardening, etc. More information on all clubs will be available by registration time in August.

There are some low-cost or free after-school programs in our community. Open Door and cityWild are two different organizations that can pick up kids from Morey and drive them to their locations. If you have questions about after-school options, call Assistant Principal MJ Roberts-Gibson at 720-424-0724.

What kind of sports are offered at Morey?

We have the typical seasonal sports other DPS middle schools offer: flag football, cross country, softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball. For questions about athletics, please contact our Athletic Director, Shana Wilhelm, at shana_wilhelm@dpsk12.org.

How do I notify the school if my child is absent?

- Please call the Morey Middle School attendance line at 720-424-0736. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day.
- Students who are tardy to school should always report to the main office for a tardy slip.

Can I speak with the nurse about my student's medical needs?

We will have a nurse placed at Morey in August. Until we know who that person is (and their contact information), please direct any nursing questions to our main office (720-424-0700).

How can I get involved in the school community?

Morey encourages parents/ guardians to actively participate in their children's education. The Parent-Teacher Organization will host an informational recruitment night in the first few weeks of school. Be on the lookout for more information about that night. Please consider attending to learn about the many school volunteer opportunities. Contact friendsofmorey@gmail.com to join the mailing list or get any PTO questions answered.

Our Collaborative School Leadership Team (CSLT) provides opportunities for families to have a hand in important decision-making and monitoring, including budget, hiring decisions, and school climate matters. The CSLT replaces the Collaborative School Committee that is present in many schools, and is part of our innovation plan.

How can I learn more about and provide feedback on the school direction?

"Coffee with the Principal" is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the school and plans for the school. It also gives you an opportunity to connect with the principals. In general, these coffees are scheduled for the last Friday of the month from 9:00-9:45 am. Some of the coffees are at Morey, and some will be virtual. Be in the habit of checking the weekly Morey parent newsletter that goes out for those dates.

Please feel free to contact me regarding additional questions or concerns. I am so excited to partner with you in supporting your child's education during the 2022-23 school year. Go Mustangs!

Hillary Niebauer

Principal

Morey Middle School

720-424-0700

hillary_niebauer@dpsk12.org