



August 2016

Welcome to the new school year! I am very excited to be a part of the Puma family. As a life-long Westsider, I am very aware of the great honor and traditions of Helfrich Park. I look forward to being a part of it again. This year, we welcome several new members to the Puma staff (or current Pumas who have taken on new roles). They will walk beside our students as they make their footprint in #pumapride. As you see these new staff members, please make them feel welcome.

Mr. Darrin Carnahan – Social Studies
Mrs. Lisa Forzley – Special Education Assistant
Mrs. Sarah Kurre – Language Arts
Mr. Tim McIntosh – Physical Education
Mr. Andrew Tekoppel – Social Studies

Mrs. Alyson Roblero – Media Assistant
Ms. Shelley Ryan – Counselor
Mr. Patrick Strasik – Orchestra
Ms. Ashley Wriston – Special Education

I have no doubt that we will work harder than ever to leave our own legacy this year. We will look back and say, "We were proud of what we accomplished." Let's have a great year!

Blessings,

Dr. Cory Herrin

Friday Fun Night

On Friday, August 26th, Helfrich Park will host our first Fun Night after school until 4:25 P.M. Tickets are \$3 and can be bought during lunch period on that day OR at the door. Fun nights are a chance to spend time together playing games, socializing, and listening to music (a DJ will be here!) The concession stand will be available for students to purchase snacks. **IMPORTANT:** Students need to bring their money with them to school. Parents please do not bring money to the office on the day of the event. If your student forgets their money, you can meet them after school to give them money. There will be an after school bus to take them home, or you can pick them up at 4:25. This is a fun event that your child won't want to miss!

HPSA on Social Media

Helfrich Park is diving deeper into the realm of Social Media: we have a new website, continuing with Facebook, and added Twitter and Instagram. We want this to be a positive place to showcase things that are going on at school. If you have questions about school policy and procedures, please contact the school directly.

To give you the most updated information, our school calendar can now be found on our website.

Website: <http://helfrichpark.evscschools.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Helfrich-Park-STEM-Academy-537578926331112/>

Twitter: HPSA@HelfrichPark

6TH GRADE STARS



Science: We are so excited to get to know your child and help foster and grow their love of learning. Please make sure that your child has a composition notebook, pens and pencils, and a charged ThinkPad daily for science class. We will communicate class information through *Remind*. Please get signed up so you don't miss out on important class information. If you don't have an active RDS account, please contact Shelley Ryan, our school counselor. You can check your child's grades with your RDS account.

Math: Sixth grade math students started the year with long division, powers, and order of operations. All sixth grade math students have homework at least four times a week. Please be sure to go over your child's homework with him/her to be sure it is completed each night. If we work together, we can help ensure that the sixth grade year will be a successful one for your Helfrich Park child!

ELA: The year is off to an incredible start!!! In English we will be working on narrative writing as well as parts of speech. Throughout narrative writing we will reinforce plot structure and the writing process. In literature we will be working with fiction and nonfiction. We have been examining the elements and structure of these stories. We will be completing activities using *Greyling* and *Stray*.

Social Studies: 6th grade social studies is off to a great start. Our first unit of study is geography. During this unit we will focus on the characteristics of climate regions and major physical features of the countries and cities of the Western Hemisphere. Some specific learning targets include using latitude and longitude, locating the 7 continents and 4 hemispheres, and distinguishing between absolute and relative locations.

PTSA—Boxtops

Be sure to bring in your Box Tops. We will be collecting them all year long. Be sure to put your homeroom teacher on your baggie or paper so that your homeroom gets credit for a party. Let's see which homerooms can be the winner!



DANCE TEAM

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls who are not on the basketball or cheer team are able to try out for Dance Team. PRACTICES for tryouts are after school on Monday, September 12 and Thursday, September 15 until 4:00 P.M. The students will learn a few 8 counts of a dance for tryouts. They should wear a t-shirt, clothes they can dance in, and either tennis shoes or jazz shoes. The TRYOUT will be after school on Monday, September 19 until 4:00 P.M. Students who make the team will have practices after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4:00 P.M. from September 22 through mid-February. On days of home games, Dance Team members must go home after school and return to school at 4:15 P.M. Dance Team will perform at halftime of the first game at all boys' and girls' basketball home games. The start time of the games are 4:30 P.M. Dance Team will also perform at an Exhibition in January. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Hall at susanm.hall@evsc.k12.in.us or (812) 435-8888 ext. 41843.

Sick Child? If your child is ill, please call Helfrich Park Attendance at 812-435-8246 extension 1 before 9 A.M. Please leave your child's full name and the reason that they will be absent. If you would like for homework to be collected, please ask. This request should be sent before 9 A.M. and will be available in the front office between 3 and 3:30 P.M.

7TH GRADE M&M'S



Science: The 7th grade science teachers, Mrs. Deal, Mrs. Dillow, Mrs. Jarrell, and Mrs. McDurmon, are excited to begin the new school year. In the beginning, we will focus on the scientific method and the metric system. These units cover process standards necessary for the rest of the year and in future science classes. Students will be conducting experiments using metric measurements. We hope they go home and share what they are learning in class!

Math: We will be studying Integer and Rational Number Operations and then moving on to Order of Operations. The students are doing a great job...keep it up! Mrs. Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann want to thank the Helfrich Park families for a great start to seventh grade math. We met many wonderful students and parents at the annual Back-To-School picnic. An initial placement test has been given to determine strengths and weaknesses. Students will begin working on integer addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Exponents and factors are just on the horizon. As always, we continue to encourage daily homework and practice to develop mathematical skills. Mrs. McDurmon's Math 7H classes started off the year with Math Olympics. Ask them about it!

ELA: Mr. Loehrlein, Ms. Thompson, and Mrs. Bateman would like to welcome the new 7th grade ELA students. The year has started off well. We have reviewed point of view and plot structure through a variety of selections. The students are beginning a new novel. We have begun a narrative essay unit working on sentence structure and editing. Narrowing down and staying on topic will be a major writing focus this year through daily writing. Reading and writing daily at home will strengthen their writing.

Social Studies: Mr. Loehrlein, Mr. Tekoppel and Mr. Carnahan are happy to begin a new school year! For 7th grade Social Studies, we are reviewing the five themes of geography and the world's population. Afterwards, we will be delving into ancient Mesopotamia!

Our first **Spirit Day** will be August 26th! Spirit days are days that students are allowed to wear a Helfrich Park or Reitz t-shirt or sweatshirt to school. They are still required to wear khaki or navy uniform pants. *No hoodies or front pocket sweatshirts.*

**LOST AND FOUND
STUDENTS SHOULD
CHECK THE LOST AND
FOUND LOCATED IN
THE GYM AND THE
OFFICE.**

DONATIONS As your student grows out of their uniform pants, please consider donating them to the school nurse.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Our first unit will be working on fundamentals of Volleyball with our 6th graders by playing a lead up game called Newcomb Ball. This game is similar to the game of Volleyball except instead of bumping, students will catch the ball and instead of serving, they will throw the ball. Our 7th and 8th graders will be playing Volleyball. We will work on volleying, passing and serving before we allow them to play an actual game.

Please make sure your child has proper shoes and clothes for gym class (ladies: fingertip length shorts). You may bring in blue or gray shirts and shorts. Just a reminder: if you have not paid your \$5.00 equipment/lock rental please do so as soon as possible. Have A Great Year And Welcome Back!

Mrs. Redd and Mr. McIntosh

8TH GRADE G.8.T.O.R.S.



Science: 8th grade Science is off to a great start! After covering lab safety, we are excited about our upcoming units on the Scientific method, engineering process, and the metric system. Students will cover important concepts necessary for understanding and successfully completing this year's science units. They can look forward to doing many lab activities in the next few weeks, such as, the Metric Olympics and straw rocket launchers to demonstrate understanding of the scientific method and the engineering process. Please remember to check RDS to view your student's progress.

Math: The G.8.T.O.R.S. are off to a great start and looking forward to a bright and rewarding year. We are trying to establish good study and work habits to set the tone for the year. Teachers have been working to develop Common Formative Assessments for the Problems of Practice in Professional Learning Communities. We are modeling how to use data to help drive instruction and help students succeed. Students have been determining how to tell the difference between rational and irrational numbers. They have also worked on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing these numbers. If you have any questions please feel free to contact your helpful 8th grade math teacher.

ELA: The 8th grade ELA team is working on narrative writing and reviewing grammar skills. We are also reading short stories, discussing themes, and comparing these short stories.

U.S. History: 8th grade U.S. History is off and running like this year's Presidential election. It's been a wild ride. We are starting off the year looking at the geography of the U.S. and then heading into early colonization. Books will not be sent home and the vast majority of the work will be in class.

GENERAL MUSIC & CHOIR

Welcome back to school. We are excited to learn about and make wonderful music.

In **general music** all of the students are learning the procedures of the classroom, working on reviewing music theory, listening to different genres of music and describing what they hear.

8th grade Choir students are working on sight singing and singing in a group.

The **6th grade Choir** meets after school every Monday at 2:30 to 4:00. All 6th grade students are welcome to join.

The **Choir concerts** for this School year are: December 8th at Helfrich Park @ 6:30 P.M. and May 11th at Helfrich Park @6:30 P.M. Thanks for your support!



Mr.DeKemper

WIN - WHAT I NEED

Starting on Monday, August 22nd, we will be starting our 10th period class that has in the past been called *Study Hall* or *Enrichment*. Starting this year, we will be calling it our **WIN** period. WIN stands for "What I Need". It is a time for students to receive additional support in needed areas. For some students, they will be receiving additional support to help them bridge the gap in their math or language arts skills. Other students will receive small group support to keep their math and language arts skills sharp and not fall behind. Other students will be given time to work on their daily work so that their evenings can be free to do the life enriching activities that they are currently doing. Finally, some students will have the chance to receive enrichment activities from some of the professionals here at Helfrich Park. These groups will change throughout the year so that we can continue to support our students as they grow and mature. We are very excited to be able to offer our student a time to understand and work on *What I Need*.

RDS Parent Access

Now is the perfect time to get yourself signed up to use RDS Parent Access. RDS is a one-stop on-line shop where you can check your student's grades, track attendance and view homework. You can even use the system to email your child's teacher. All you need is a computer or smart phone, internet access and an activation code from your school secretary. Once you get logged on, you create your own easy to remember user name and password...and you're ready to go. For more information on RDS Parent Access, contact your school or visit EVSC website at <http://www.evscschools.com/> for tips on how to set up and use the system.

Digital Communications A.K.A. Digi Comm



Welcome back! This year looks to be exciting and filled with new experiences. I have been in contact with several of our ePal teachers and we are working out the details of when we will begin our email exchange. We are trying to maintain connections in Colorado, South Dakota, France, and Cambodia; while expanding our connections to other parts of the world.

ThinkPads

Welcome Back Miss Amber Wade! She is returning as our building tech and her office is in the main hallway. She will be in the building daily from Noon-2:30. If a student has issues with their ThinkPad before noon, they should take it to Mrs. Roblero in the Media Center and she will give the student a loaner ThinkPad until theirs can be examined/repared. They will need to completely fill out the repair slips.

A few reminders for the students:

It is each student's responsibility to make sure their ThinkPad is charged for each school day. Having widgets/gadgets running on your desktop or having your wallpaper rotate images is fun; but, it takes away from your overall battery performance.

Before taking the ThinkPad to the Tech/Media Aide, all files need to be backed up using Google Drive, Office 365, or a flash drive. If necessary, the student will be given a loaner ThinkPad until their ThinkPad can be repaired. Depending on the repair, the hard drive may need to be erased or the loaner may become their new computer. Either way, needed files could be lost. **BACK UP ALL FILES.**

Helfrich Park has wireless internet. If a student does not have an internet connection at home, there are a couple of options that are available to them. Students should be able to access the public library's internet system while at any of the EVPL branches. During WIN period, students should ask their teachers if they can download the needed materials to work on assignments offline at home, and then upload their completed work the next morning during Home-room period.

All returning 7th and 8th graders should have their ThinkPad cases from last year. Sixth Graders and new students to the EVSC will receive 1 free bag. If a student has lost or misplaced their case, a used (\$5) or new (\$25) case can be purchased from the office. Used cases will be sold on a first come first serve basis. The ThinkPad and charger will need to be returned to Helfrich Park in the spring. The cases are theirs to keep.