



Jonas Clarke Middle School

Jonas Clarke School Association
September 2009 Newsletter

17 Stedman Road
Lexington, MA 02421-7210
781-861-2459
clarke.lexingtonma.org

Principal: Steven H. Flynn, Ed.D.
Assistant Principals: Anna Monaco, Jonathan Wettstone

From The Principal



Dear Clarke families,

With the first day of school fast approaching, I want to welcome all new and returning students to Clarke Middle School. As principal, I am always excited about the first day of school for students and faculty. The anticipation of new classes, meeting new friends, and finding your way around the building always makes students nervous about the first day. Each faculty member is excited about the opportunity to have a new group of students to work with in their classes. By the end of the first week, students and faculty are ready to embark on the adventures of middle school.

The following teachers have been hired:

- Katherine Atchinson:** Special Education
- Kathryn Williams:** Math Teacher
- Catherine Hibbard:** French Teacher (long-term)
- Nina Shraye:** Special Education
- Torrance Lewis:** Learning Center

The administration is working on completing the hiring for any open positions in early August. I am pleased to announce the following staff members as Team Leaders:

- Atlantis:** Jay Pelkey
- Quest:** Jody Petner
- Voyager:** Mary Quirk
- Adventurer:** Carolyn Sheild
- Endeavor:** Doug Rose
- Explorer:** Mark Waldeck
- Challenge:** Tony Palladino
- Discovery:** Edward Davey
- Apollo:** Ramille Romulus

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Calendar

August

Mon 31 Teachers only

September

Tues	1	1 st day-grade 6 only	1pm dismissal
Wed	2	1 st full day – all students	7: 50 am – 2:50 pm
Wed	2	Welcome Back Parent Coffee	9-10 am
Fri	4	Holiday	No School
Mon	7	Holiday	No School
Thur	10	Professional development	11:45 am dismissal
Thur	10	JCSA meeting	8:30 – 9:30 am
Tues	15	Team Parent-Teacher Kick-Off Breakfast	7.30 am
Fri	18	Last day to submit directory, membership & volunteer forms	
Thur	24	Back to School Night	6:30 – 8 pm
Mon	28	Holiday	No School

October

Thur	1	JCSA meeting	8:30 – 9:30 am
Thur	1	Magazine Drive Assembly (drive runs 10/1-10/13)	
Tue	6	Boston-Lexington Potluck in Boston	6-7:30pm
Wed	7	Parent Coffee /Speaker	9 – 9:45 am
Mon	12	Holiday	No School
Tues	13	Magazine Drive – last day to turn in orders	
Tues	13	Apollo Team Sponsored Teachers Breakfast	
Wed	14	Professional development	No School
Fri	16	6 th grade social	3 – 5 pm
T/W	20/21	Picture Days	
Sat	24	Parents Night Out	7 – 11 pm



Clarke Phone Numbers

Web clarke.lexingtonma.org
Main Office 781.861.2450 (7:30 am—4:30 pm)
Absence 781.861.2450 x 2000
Guidance 781.861.2450 x 2070
Fax (24/7) 781.674.2043

From The Principal*(Continued from Page 1)*

We know that many incoming students are nervous about entering middle school. We have decided to open the school, so they can locate their locker and homeroom class. On August 28th, the school will be open for students and parents from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Students must be accompanied by their parent.**

We look forward to the first day for 6th graders and new students on Tuesday, September 1st. The sixth graders will have the opportunity to meet their teachers, locate their classrooms, and have lunch in the cafeteria. The school day will end at 1:00 p.m. All new 7th and 8th grade students will have a special orientation on Tuesday, September 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The 7th or 8th graders will report to the auditorium at 8:30 a.m. and are expected to be picked up by a parent at 10:00 a.m. The first full-day of school is Wednesday, September 2nd. The school district will be closed on Friday, September 4th and Monday, September 7th (Labor Day).

I look forward to the parent coffee, hosted by the JCSA, on Wednesday, September 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Sincerely,
Steven H. Flynn, Ed.D.
Principal

From the JCSA

On behalf of the Jonas Clarke School Association (JCSA), it is our pleasure to welcome you to an exciting 2009-2010 academic year. We hope that you and your families enjoyed your summer and are ready to dive into this year and find out about the JCSA, how to volunteer, how to get information and what events we have lined up for you this fall.



For our new incoming families, the JCSA is a PTO that supports the school in ways that PTAs do. We support staff with mini-grants, ACT shows (bringing performing artists to Clarke), library materials, the school directory, and much more. We coordinate Team Parents, library volunteers, Boston-Lexington outings and class socials/dances. We plan staff appreciation luncheons and 8th grade closing ceremonies. **To do all of the above, we need your help!** We have two fundraisers in October: a magazine drive will run October 1st – 13th and a Parents Night Out with an auction, food and dancing on Saturday, October 24th.

We hope you will consider volunteering at Clarke. It is an important way to become an active part of the Clarke community and to get to know other Clarke families.

There are many ways that you can get involved. You can volunteer once or commit yourself all through the year. If you are unable to volunteer because your schedule is too busy, please come out and support the various Clarke athletic teams through the year. Let's cheer for those Clarke Bulldogs! There are so many opportunities to support our students at the many musical concerts, drama performances, and other events.

Friday, September 18th is a very important date because the following forms are due by then: JCSA membership form, sign up for the Clarke Listserve, Parent Volunteer form, and the student Directory form. All the forms are available at: <http://clarke.lexingtonma.org/JCSA.html>

Even though Clarke may not feel as accessible as Bowman, Bridge, or Harrington, there are many ways parents can keep in touch with what's going on at school either through your student or independently.

You can stay connected to Clarke the following ways:

- Clarke website:** clarke.lexingtonma.org for school information and JCSA sign up forms.
- Teachersweb**, coming soon on the website, webpage for team and foreign language teachers to post homework.
- Clarke Listserve:** Weekly school and JCSA info in the form of a calendar and short announcements, sent every Friday. To sign up, go to clarke.lexingtonma.org/jcsa.html, follow the directions at the bottom of the page or complete and return the bottom section of the Directory form.

JCSA meetings: First Thursday of the month at 8:30-9:30 am.

PA system during homeroom for daily announcements. Important for after school activity sign ups for your student.

JAB, Jonas Advisory Board, Student committee with a rep from each homeroom: coordinates help for teachers called lend a hand, peer tutoring, and ways to show school spirit.

We hope to meet you at one of these beginning of school events: a welcome coffee for ALL parents, on Wednesday, 9/2 at 9:00 am; the first JCSA meeting on Thursday, 9/10 at 8:30 am; or at the Team Parents Kick Off Breakfast on Tuesday, 9/15 at 7:30 am. Most meetings are in the 3rd cafeteria, but you must sign in at the office first. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer and visit the Clarke website!!

See you soon,

Deborah Lapides, deb@lapides.us
Sue Wilner, w.wilners5@verizon.net
JCSA Co-Presidents

Team Parents Needed!

Join us in volunteering to be a **Clarke Team Parent**. Our kick off breakfast meeting is Tuesday, September 15h at 7:30 am in the main cafeteria. As your family moves through the middle school years, this is one of the most satisfying ways to stay involved. Team parent responsibilities occur periodically throughout the year and vary by team, but most often include:

- Getting to know some of your child's teachers
- Meeting more parents and students in our community

- Organizing your team's one Staff Appreciation Breakfast
- Finding volunteers for field trips, school parties, special projects, health screening
- Creating a class contact list
- Developing a wish list of items to enhance classroom work
- Maintaining communication links between team teachers and parents

At our September 15th meeting, you'll have a chance to meet the other volunteers from your team, talk to your

team's teachers, ask questions, share tips and receive an overview of Team Parent responsibilities for the coming year.

If you'd like more information, or to sign up please contact Team Parent Coordinator Deborah Halber, 781 863 8607, dhalber@writingreality.com. Please note that you do not need to attend the September 15h meeting to sign up as a team parent, but attendance is strongly recommended. Thanks!

Emergency Contact/ Permission forms

During the first of week school, students will bring home an Emergency Contact/Permission form. It will contain information that the office has on the file for your child. You will have the chance to update phone numbers, contacts and medical information. There are also handbook and publication permission signatures needed on this form. It is very important that it be returned to school as soon as possible so that the office may have the most current information for all students.



Looking for Host Families

We are interested in having Lexington families volunteer to serve as host families for Boston students. During the school year, some of our students from Boston have been unable to attend various functions such as sports tryouts or have the opportunity to socialize with Lexington students prior to socials and on half-days. The idea is to provide a home for the Boston students to go to during these times, so that they can fully participate in what the Clarke community has to offer.

If you are interested in hosting or would like more information, please contact:

Deborah Lapidés deb@lapides.us or 781-862-8083
Alan Shute ahshute@msn.com or 781-863-5297

Clarke Newsletter Goes Green starting with October 09 Edition

In an effort to save trees and printing costs, the Newsletter will be available on the Clarke Website around the first of Oct, Nov, Dec, Feb and June. You will see an announcement on Listserve when they are posted online. The September and April Newsletters will still be printed and "snail" mailed **If you would like to receive a hardcopy, then please let the Clarke office know.** Thank you!

Please Join Us For Welcome Coffee!

The JCSA and Clarke Administration invite all parents for coffee on Wednesday, Sept 2nd from 9:00– 10:00 am in the Clarke Cafeteria.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet other parents and make new friends! Please remember to sign in at the Main Office first!



We need your Ideas!



As we strive to produce an informative and interesting newsletter, it would help us to get your feed back and ideas regarding the content.

Please feel free to email your suggestions and comments to clarke.newsletter@gmail.com

Clarke Middle School Newsletter

The Newsletter prints items directly related to the school and the JCSA. Articles are subject to editorial discretion.

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Send your articles to: clarke.newsletter@gmail.com

Next Deadline : Monday, September 14th

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What are the school hours?

A: Office hours on school days are 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Students may enter the building at 7:50 am. Homeroom begins at 8:00 am. Dismissal is at 2:50 pm. On half days, dismissal is at 11:45 am.

Q: What is the tardy policy?

A: If you miss homeroom (ends at 8:05am), you are tardy. Late students must sign in at office. You may get detention after 3 tardies. Tardies due to a late bus are not counted. See the attendance policy on the Clarke webpage at <http://clarke.lexingtonma.org/Handbook0809.pdf> for more details.

Q: What's the procedure for early dismissal?

A: Students must present a note from their parent or guardian to the main office between 7:50 am and 8 am. The student must check in at the main office at the designated time and then proceed outside to meet their parent. In an emergency or unforeseen circumstance, the Principal or his designee may dismiss a student upon parent request.

Q: My student does not take the bus, where do I drop them off and pick them up?

A: From Brookside Ave, pass tennis courts and pull into the upper parking lot (second left) to drop-off students along the sidewalk next to the building. For safety reasons, the traffic circle in front of the building is reserved for school buses and emergency vehicles. This area is posted as a fire lane. Parking and drop-off is not permitted in this area at anytime.

Live pick up is also in this parking lot. Please do not block buses. Please refer to dismissal map on the Clarke website: <http://clarke.lexingtonma.org>

Q: Are there safety issues for students who ride bikes to school?

A: Bike racks are located next to the school on the Allen Street side of the building. Students who approach school from Brookside Avenue should use the walkway on the side of Stedman Road when traveling to and from that area. In the interest of safety, students should walk their bicycles to the bike rack once they have arrived at school. Please note that students may not use skateboards, scooters, etc. on school property.

Q: Where do students enter the building?

A: When dropping off in the morning, seventh grade students will enter the building by the gymnasium on the first floor. Sixth and eighth grade students will come in through the main entrance on the second floor.

Q: Are there crossing guards available for walkers?

A: Crossing guards are posted at the intersection of Waltham Street and Brookside Avenue and on Marrett Road at the entrance to the Stedman Path.

Q: How do I learn about school cancellations and delayed openings?

A: In case of inclement weather, school may be canceled or the opening delayed by one or two hours, depending upon conditions. Superintendent Ash, leaves a phone message on your primary phone for morning announcements that will at 5:30 am. School closings are also announced on local TV and AM radio stations.

Q: How does my student pay for lunch in the Cafeteria?

A: You must open an account with Chartwells Dining Services. There are two ways to add money to your account: 1) Send a check made out to Lexington Public Schools, along with a stamped, self addressed envelope to: Chartwells Dining Service, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02421.

2) Open an account online—follow instructions on <http://www.chartwellsschooldining.com/lpsma>. Contact Nancy Wiseman, at 781-861-2320 x 1181 with questions.

Q: How do I contact teachers at Clarke?

A: Either by email or voicemail. Teacher email addresses generally follow the pattern "firstinitiallastname@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us". If for some reason this does not work, please call the school. Teachers are also available by voicemail. Call the school number, 781.861.2450 and a secretary will assist you.

Q: How do I reach the school nurse?

A: You may contact our school nurse, Pamela Pierce, R.N. by phone at 781.861.2450 x 2050.

Q: Where is the lost and found?

A: Items that have been found are either in the Main Office or in the cafeteria.