

Captain's Log

By Principal Mohler

We had a very successful second week of school. Students are really beginning to understand and follow processes and procedures. The teachers are excited about jumping into the curriculum and can't wait for you to see all of the fantastic things planned for the year.

Advisory Crew – We still need another parent representative on the Advisory Crew. If you are interested please email me at amohler@amanaacademy.org. This crew helps me to make decisions and collect ideas on how to make Amana the very best. We meet monthly with the Team Leaders to discuss various issues.

P.I.E. meetings – It was great to see all of you at the PIE Meet and Greet this past Wednesday evening. Thank you so much to the wonderful PIE volunteers for all of their hard work getting ready for that event. This year will be a very successful one because of your dedication.

Communication – Please remember that if you have issues concerning the education of your child please do the following:

1. Contact your child's teacher FIRST. Often times a simple email or phone call is all that is needed to clarify a situation or misunderstanding.
2. If the issue has to do with a specific program or department contact that person first. (For example – After school issues contact Coach Ivan, Special Education issues contact our IST Ghada Swadek, ESOL issues contact our ESOL specialists Jana Alwakeel or Karen Helz, Uniform issues contact Gloria McLean, lunch order issues contact our lunch vendor, etc...)
3. If the issue is not resolved then contact the principal, Amaris Mohler through her office staff and they will be more than happy to get her a message. Often times email is the fastest way to contact her (amohler@amanaacademy.org). Always leave your name, your child's name, a contact number, and a brief summary of the issue. This will ensure the fastest possible response. Most messages are answered within 24 hours, often within just hours of receiving them.

Attendance – We have started to count students tardy if they do not arrive in the classroom by 8am. Please make sure to have your child at school on time. The teachers do begin teaching promptly at 8.

Uniforms – The teachers are beginning to notify parents when students come to school out of uniform. If a child is out of uniform they will receive a note to take home the first time to remind parents of the uniform policy. If the problem persists the parents will be asked to have a meeting with the Director of Student Services, Gloria McLean to resolve the issue.

Curriculum Nights – Please mark your calendars now so that you may attend the following nights:

Tuesday, September 4th Kinder/1st

Wednesday, September 5th 2nd/3rd

Tuesday, September 11th 4th/5th

Wednesday, September 12th Middle School

The evening is for parents only and we ask that you come for the entire time – 6:30-8pm. We look forward to seeing you then.

Volunteers – A big part of Amana's success is its parents. They work alongside the teachers helping in the classrooms, on field studies, and at home. In order to ensure that all volunteer work is consistent with Amana's philosophy and vision we require that volunteers go through training and a background check. We want to ensure that all students are in the safest and most productive environment possible at all times. Our first volunteer training sessions will be:

Tuesday, August 28th from 6pm-8pm

Please feel free to attend either session. Babysitting will be provided by the PIE. Please RSVP to Donna Schindler at donnaschindlerpcc@yahoo.com. During the training you will be given information on how to

go about being fingerprinted if you were not last year. ALL parents MUST go through volunteer training every year. They MUST be fingerprinted every two years.

CRCT Data – Amana has received the 2006-2007 CRCT results. Jelena and I have analyzed the data extensively and are prepared to present the results to all of you. Please mark your calendars for this very informative and celebratory evening. During this time you will see all of the data, how we did in comparison to other schools, and what goals we have set for this year. You will also be getting a glimpse of the way our teachers are using this data to drive their instruction and how it affects each child's Individual Learning Plan that we are piloting this year. This session will be on **Wednesday, August 29th from 6:30-8pm.**

Class Placement – All class placements should be final now. Thank you for being flexible, patient, and understanding when it came to evening out the classes. All of our teachers are of the highest caliber and all students will have wonderful experiences this year.

Homework – Amana's policy on homework is that we feel it is just an extension of learning done at school. It is very specific for each grade level and will be outlined in detail at Curriculum Night. Amana also believes in creating a community of learners in which all students feel accepted and valued for who they are. This kind of inclusion takes time. Generally, we take about the 1st 6 weeks to establish procedures, protocols, and build inclusion in all classes. During this time you will see very little homework coming home, if any. Please be patient and know that your child IS learning at Amana and rigorous academic standards are being followed. Please remember that more homework does not equal more learning. Please join us at Curriculum Night to hear more about this topic.