



August 9, 2023

Dear Montbello Families:

I'm extremely proud to serve as your new principal of Montbello Middle School and I'm looking forward to connecting soon with you and your student(s) as we kick off a great school year. Please excuse the length of this communication, but I wanted to take a moment to provide some information and answer some of the questions you all may have as we prepare to welcome our students back.

Registration: As was communicated, registration is taking place this week, on August 10th and August 11th. To expedite the registration process, we will require that you bring a current copy of your student's immunization record from a doctor's office. Additionally, if you have recently moved, please provide a proof of address (this can be a utility bill or lease agreement). Montbello's in person registration will take place at the following times: :

Thursday, August 10:	12:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Friday, August 11:	8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Please reach out to Ms. Bertha Fajardo Jacome bfajard@dpsk12.net with any questions about registration.

School Calendar: Montbello Middle School follows the [Denver Public Schools Calendar](#). The exception is our staggered grade level start dates.

First days: The first day for **6th grade students is Monday, August 21**. We'll begin school at 9:00 am and end at 4:20pm This time will be used for a 6th grade orientation, where students will engage in community building activities, learn to operate their lockers, and become familiar with the building.

The first day for **7th grade and 8th grade is Tuesday, August 22nd**.

School Start/End Times: As DPS is moving forward with our "Healthy Start Times" Initiative, our school day will begin later than last year. This year Montbello's school day will be from **9:00 am to 4:20 pm** on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. **Wednesday will still be an early release day, with classes dismissing at 1:30 pm.**

Bussing: Because Montbello Middle School students receive FNE (Far Northeast) Shuttle Services, we want to make sure you have the correct information about which bus your students should use. Please use this [link](#) to locate the most appropriate shuttle your student should take.

Any additional questions can be sent directly to the Transportation Department at transportation@dpsk12.org.

Community Events: As we continue to grow to be a staple in the Montbello community, we will be intentional about promoting events that aim to bring the community together. These events will be promoted on Montbello Middle School's website and other social media platforms. With that said, we'd like to bring your attention to the **One Montbello** event taking place on **August 26, 2023 at 4840 Chambers Road**. This event will be from 11am to 4pm and there will include vendors, face painting, food and live entertainment. As more events take place this year, we will keep our families informed.

School Supply List:

Please use this link to find the [Montbello Middle's School Supply List](#).

Calendar of Events:

August 10 and 11	In-person registration
August 21	First full day for 6th grade ONLY
August 22	First full day for all students 6, 7, and 8
September 4	Labor Day - No School
September 13, 5:30 pm	Back-to-School Night

Where to get more information

The school website, <https://montbelloms.dpsk12.org/> is currently being updated to make sure we provide you all up to date information. Our plan is to have it updated to reflect the 2023-24 school year by mid-August. Please bookmark it as one of your favorites.

Among other things, you can use it to get information about:

- School Supply List
- School start and end times
- Student systems and procedures
- Student handbook
- Information about our staff

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I pay for school fees online?

Fees may be paid for through www.MySchoolBucks.com. In early August, Ms. Gutierrez-Mota, our school financial 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. Please know that beginning this school year DPS will now utilize the "Healthy Meals for All" program, providing free lunch for every student. **Although lunch is free for all students this year, we do need all families to complete the "You Benefit" application on the "My School App" website.** Lastly, "MySchoolBucks" will not be used to pay for school meals.

When does school start this year?

August 21, 9:00 am - 4:20 pm for **6th graders**

August 22, 9:00 am - 4:20 pm for **7th graders and 8th graders** (6th still comes)

August 23, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm for **ALL STUDENTS COME, but it's an early release**

Why do 6th grade students have a different start date?

Middle school can be a little intimidating for 6th grade students. Having a special day for 6th graders gives them an opportunity to orient themselves to school prior to starting classes.

What are the school office hours?

The office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 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.

Do I need to purchase school supplies?

You can find the [Montbello Middle 2023-2024](#) School Supply list here.

When is Back-to-School Night at Montbello?

It is Thursday, September 13th 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 Montbello.

When will my child receive his/her schedule?

Your child's schedule will be provided to them during the first day of school (**August 21st for 6th graders, and August 22nd for 7th and 8th graders**). Any schedule changes will not take place immediately, however, after we have settled into the school year, we will examine any potential schedule issues and work collaboratively to come up with the best possible outcome for your student's learning.

What is Montbello's cell phone policy?

As our primary focus is your child's education, we are asking our families to support our cell phone policy for the 2023-24 school year. 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. If parents need to reach their child, they call the main office, and we'll bring the student to the office. This policy has been effective in lowering online bullying incidents, and promoting more social skills among our middle schoolers. As we work to move our students toward academic excellence it is imperative to remove any barriers to their learning.

What kind of sports are offered at Montbello?

While we aim to have the typical seasonal sports offered by other DPS schools, sports at Montbello are dependent on student interest and coach availability. We are also exploring bringing some "less traditional" sports to Montbello Middle. For questions about athletics, please reach out to our Athletic Director, Ms. (Z) Zilverberg at dzilver@dpsk12.net.

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

- This year, parents can still call the attendance line at 720-424-0820 to report their student's absence.
- Beginning this year, parents can also submit absences through the **DPS Parent Portal** (Guides on how to use the portal can be accessed [here](#)).

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

Ms. Renate Jimerson will be continuing to serve as our Nurse for the 2023-2024 school year. Please feel free to reach out to her regarding any of your student's medical needs at 720-424-0821 or rjimerson@dpsk12.net.

How can I get involved in the school community?

This year at Montbello, we are being intentional about listening to the needs of our parents and increasing our family and community participation. More information about these opportunities will come soon. Families who have an interest in working with the school community can contact our Family Liaison, Ms. Ceballos at 720-424-0856 or [lizbeth_ceballos@dpsk12.net](mailto:lizabeth_ceballos@dpsk12.net).

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

Feedback opportunities will be provided for families through a variety of methods, including Coffee with the Principal. As the dates are solidified, more information will follow.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to partnering with you all and providing your child with an incredible middle school experience!

Roderick S. Tooson

Principal

Montbello Middle School

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