

September 23, 2010

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe, but we have completed our fourth week of school already! Can you believe that we have been in school one month? It hardly seems possible that the month of September is so near its end.

Anson Elementary is a full three-section building with 3 classrooms at each grade level and approximately 325 students. Our Anson family again experienced a number of changes over the summer. This fall we find ourselves missing some former educators who were so valued among us and welcoming new teachers who are showing themselves to be excellent additions to our Anson family. Please note the staff list on the following page.

I would like to remind parents to call school (754-1020) when your child will be absent. We like to make sure that all of our boys and girls are accounted for and that no one has been lost or hurt on the way to school. If we do not receive a call from the home, we will make an effort to verify the child's absence.

We welcome your visits to school, but it is a safety issue that ALL VISITORS must sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge. This will include parents in the building to talk to a teacher or needing to go the classroom for any reason. It is important for us to be able to account for every adult who is in this building. Please honor our policy.

It is, also, key for me to tell you how important it is for your child to be in attendance each and every day and arrive at school on time. Asking for your child to leave early is equally detrimental. Our building's daily attendance is tracked by the State of Iowa as part of the No Child Left Behind legislation. And, the district has implemented a new attendance policy. You received a copy of that in your registration packet. Not only is it important for your child to be in attendance to be a part of the learning environment and to remain until the end of the day, but it is very important for our attendance data to remain high in the light of the procedures enacted by the State of Iowa. If there is anything that we can do to help you get your child to school each day and on time, please contact us at 754-1020.

Some children have been arriving at school quite early or staying very late. It is important for me to remind you that there is no supervision on our playgrounds until 8:05 AM and not after 3:30 PM. It is hoped that you will be able to make the necessary arrangements so that your child(ren) is not faced with an unsupervised situation. Their safety is of great concern to us. As you know, all children play outside in the morning until the bell rings at 8:25 AM. Then, students enter the building to participate in our Breakfast in the Classroom program. Every child receives a free breakfast at 8:30 AM. It is, also, important for you to remember that breakfast is not served after 8:45 AM, as all food is removed from the classroom. If your child arrives after that time, you should make sure that he/she has had breakfast before coming to school.

Please remember that, according to our elementary policy as stated in the folder that you received at registration, children must live more than six blocks from school to ride a bicycle. Children below fourth grade are not to ride bicycles to school. This is due to the fact that our elementary school is located on such a busy intersection that we look to our students' safety in making this policy. Permission may be given to ride a bicycle in special circumstances by calling me at school – 754-1020.

Because of our location on a very busy street and bus traffic around our building, I would, also, like to remind you to insist that your child(ren) cross only at the crosswalks. Please do not ask your child(ren) to run across in the middle of the street to get into your car. That is a very dangerous practice that may cause a tragedy that we can avoid. This applies to both Third Avenue and South Street. Park near the crosswalks or on the east side of Third Avenue so that your child(ren) may get directly into your car from the curb.

Our regular dismissal time is 3:20 PM, except on each Wednesday when we dismiss at 2:20 PM for staff development activities. It is important that all of our students leave the building very shortly after dismissal. Teachers are involved in meetings or staff development activities after school and are unavailable for supervision past 3:30 PM. For the safety of your child(ren), please make arrangements for him/her to leave school promptly.

As you already know, our fall student-led Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place October 11-15. And, on October 15, there will be no school, as teachers will be continuing the conference schedule throughout the day. It is important that you make every effort to attend conferences as you are an integral part of the 'team' in providing the best possible educational experiences for your child. It is at this meeting that you will be a part of setting goals for your child within the context of the curriculum as is appropriate at a particular grade level. On Wednesday, October 13, school will dismiss at 2:20 PM, as usual, and conferences will begin at 2:30 PM on that day.

We are still continuing to collect Campbell's product labels. We are, also, collecting boxtops in the Boxtops for Education program again this year. We receive a monetary award for each boxtop from specially marked General Mills products that we send in. That money is placed in our field trip fund. Please send the labels and boxtops to school with your child(ren) as your 'collection' drawer becomes full.

Please find attached other notices and points of information about services that we provide for your child at Anson Elementary. If you have questions, please contact us at school – 754-1020.

Miss Niblock
Principal

PARENT NOTIFICATION

Student Assistance – AEA #267

The Marshalltown Community School District and Area Education Agency 267 (AEA #267), with the approval and support from the Iowa Department of Education, offer greater opportunities for teachers and students to receive assistance when educational problems arise.

Under current procedures, AEA #267 staff, such as school psychologists, consultants, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, school social workers and early childhood special education teachers, are considered a part of the educational team. They, together with the special education teachers employed by our school, have opportunities to provide consultative services to all teachers and to work with any individual who is in need of help. If your child is experiencing learning or behavioral problems, either at home or in school, you as a parent will be involved in the problem solving activities and the planning of interventions for your child. The interventions developed may include direct service outside of the classroom. Together we will also discuss what you might do at home to help your child succeed in school.

This is a great opportunity for our school district to increase our potential to provide help for all individuals. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the principal.