

January 2, 2017

Dear Sugar Land Middle School Community,

Welcome to 2017! The faculty and staff at Sugar Land MS hopes that you and your family had a relaxing and safe Winter Break, and we look forward to seeing your children tomorrow, Tuesday, January 3rd. As we go into the second semester, there are some important matters that we wanted to make you aware of, several of which regard student safety, which is our first obligation to parents and the community. Please take a moment to consider each of the items below:

- **Welcome Two New Teachers to SLMS!** – We are excited to announce the arrival of Mr. Alan Cabrera and Mrs. Missy Russo to our school! Mr. Cabrera recently graduated from UH, and he will be our new assistant orchestra director, and Ms. Russo is joining us as our new 6th grade science teacher. Please help them feel welcome in their new positions.
- **Second Semester Student Schedules** – Most students' schedules for the second semester will remain as they were for the first semester. A few students may experience schedule changes for one reason or another. To eliminate any confusion, however, we will post lists in the grade-level holding areas in the mornings that tell students where to report for first period. Then, during 1st period, teachers will distribute a new copy of each child's second semester schedule to the students in their 1st period class
- **Arrival and dismissal** – over the break, the City of Sugar Land made a few changes to Seventh Street that will affect drivers who drop-off and pick up their children at SLMS. The solid white line for the dedicated right turn lane into the front circle drive has been extended to the circle drive. This means that once a vehicle enters the dedicated right-turn lane, it **must** proceed into the circle drive. Crossing the solid white line may result in a citation. Therefore, aside from students who ride the bus, all drop-off's and pick-up's moving forward **must be done in the circle drive. Students will no longer be able to get into/out of vehicles along Seventh Street.** We are working with the Sugar Land Police Department to communicate this to our parents and community members to try to provide a "grace" period prior to full enforcement of this traffic change
- **East Parking Lot** – Please do not drop off or pick up your children in the east parking lot, as this interferes with bus transportation. Use the front circle drive only for picking up/dropping of your children
- **Early Pick-Up of Students from School and Message Delivery to Students** – Starting January 3rd, as a courtesy to our student workers and front office staff, we are instituting a **cut-off time of 3:45** to pick students up early from school or to deliver messages to students. Thank you in advance for your help and understanding
- **Mobile Phones/Digital Devices** – You will soon receive information from FBISD regarding an adjustment in procedures related to the return of students' confiscated cell phones. Unless part of a larger school investigation, no longer will students' cell phones be held overnight; they will be returned to students prior to the end of the day in which they were confiscated. Students will still face disciplinary action, and a \$15 fee will still be collected at a certain point. Please help your child understand the importance of using his or her device responsibly. One point that **has not changed** is that if you need to communicate with your child, please call the school, and ask for a message to be delivered, and if your child needs to communicate with you, he or she **must come to an office** to make a phone call rather than use his or her device
- **Academic Honesty and Integrity** – Please take a moment to review our [Academic Honesty expectations](#) that were discussed with students at the beginning of the year, revised by the CBLT in October, and which will be re-shared with students this week

- **Semester Exams Make-Ups** – Students who missed any first semester exam(s) may make them up after school any day starting Wednesday, January 4th and up through Friday, January 13th. Students need to report to Room 104, and will have from 4:20-6:20 to complete exams each day. If your child has more than one exam to make up, we suggest spreading them out over several days. Please make arrangements for your child to have a snack, if needed. Students will be supervised by campus administration during these make-up times. **Transportation is not provided**; please ensure that your child has a way home afterward

It's not too late to volunteer through our PTO and our VIPS program. Career Day for our 8th graders is coming up on Friday, February 3rd, and we still need guest speakers, and volunteers for the day. Please contact Rebecca Vaughan, VIPS Coordinator, at rnd.vaughan@gmail.com if you are able to help volunteer or Kim Seright, counselor, at Kimberly.Seright@fortbendisd.com if you are interested in being a guest speaker/presenter for Career Day. Be sure follow us on Twitter ([@SugarLandMS](https://twitter.com/SugarLandMS)), keep up with your child's grades, etc., on Skyward Family Access (instructions may be found on our campus webpage), and monitor our campus webpage (www.fortbendisd.com/slms) and the PTO website (www.slmspto.org) regularly.

It's going to be a great second semester, and remember, we're only a phone call or an email away if you need anything. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Keith Fickel, SLMS Principal