

August 4, 2018

Dear Titan Students and Parents,

The start of a new school year is just around the corner, and this message contains many important items and information for you and your family. Please take a moment to consider all of it so that your child has a great start to the year. Construction continues at a breakneck pace in order to be ready for the first day of school. As I mentioned in my [previous letter](#), the entire HVAC system is being replaced, a security vestibule at the front entrance has been installed (almost done), an emergency generator for essential campus systems is being installed, a bi-level water fountain with a bottle-filler (filtered) has been installed in the cafeteria, and an entirely new communications/public address system is being installed, as well. Work will continue into the start of the year, but crews will work outside of the school day and on weekends. In that same letter I briefly mentioned a **student-led campus beautification project** we will undertake this year to promote school spirit and to tangibly demonstrate servant leadership and student ownership of learning and behavior, which are aspects of the FBISD *Profile of a Graduate*. In order to fund this project, **we are launching an online fundraising campaign this Monday, August 6th**, which will run through August 27th. A separate communication will go out about this, but you may learn more by [visiting this page on our campus website](#). Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 to put toward this important, student-led project. Please help us by sharing the information you receive with family, friends, and acquaintances.

This year we will also be engaging families through **Schoology**, our online digital learning platform. In addition to having *Skyward Family Access*, you will have access to Schoology, as well. Here is a link to a short [You Tube video that describes Schoology for parents](#). We plan to offer some Schoology parent nights early in the first semester to help parents understand and be able to use Schoology as a partner with their child and with the school.

As we move into the final week before the start of school, please note that if you have documentation that must be turned in (including but not limited to outstanding immunizations, renewals of dual-residency and/or power of attorney, etc.), **please bring this paperwork to SLMS by this Friday, August 10th, by 4:00 PM**. This is our cut-off time so that staff may complete their readiness tasks for the first day of school. **Students who have outstanding items as of 4:00 PM on Friday, August 10th, will be unable to attend classes on the first day of school.**

Parent Homework! - Online Student Information Verification – August 6 through September 18

Please note that this year FBISD is “paperless” when it comes to completion of the usual first-day forms. We will also be paperless with report cards and progress reports. Your child will come home with minimal papers on the first day of school. **Please give your child “Full Access” (FA) to use computers at school AND, please give them permission to take surveys so that their voice is heard.** The next item, *Back-to-School Information Webpage*, has a link to help get you started on this parent homework 😊

Back-to-School Information Webpage - Visit our [Back-to-School campus webpage](#) (short link: <http://bit.ly/2vEOfVs>) for details about:

- Online Student Information Verification (this is a **really** important to-do item for all parents)
- Renew/Create Application for Free/Reduced Meals
- School Supply List
- PE Uniform Ordering Information
- Summer Reading List

Fort Bend Independent School District

Parent Volunteers

- We love parent volunteers! Please renew your annual *Criminal History Authorization* (CHA) by [visiting the district website](#). These reset on July 1st each year. Then, please join the PTO. Visit www.slmsto.org.

Volleyball and Football Information (7th and 8th Graders Only)

- Visit the [Football and Volleyball campus webpage](#) for details about Volleyball tryouts, Football practice, and athletic physicals, which are required prior to participation

Limited supplies needed for the first day of school

- Pen or pencil
- Lunch or lunch money
- String bag (roughly 15" x 15")
- Please **DO NOT** bring all of your school supplies on the first day

First Day of School Reminders

- Sugar Land MS strives to maintain a welcoming, yet safe environment and to give superior customer service to our community. On the first day of school, *please support our transition process, and allow your middle-schooler to enter the building independently*, unless you are dropping off medication at the clinic or have a pre-arranged meeting. Parents will have the opportunity to visit their child's classes at Open House on September 6th
- School Hours: 8:55 (tardy bell) to 4:10 (dismissal)
- Building Hours for Students: 8:20 to 4:20. Students should not arrive to campus before 8:15 AM, as we do not provide supervision until 8:15 AM
- Parents should observe all traffic signage along Seventh Street, as well as to remain patient
- Bike riders should utilize the bike rack near the main entrance off of Seventh Street; please walk bikes once arriving on campus property
- Car riders should **only** use the front circle drive by the main entrance off Seventh Street; there are **no left turns** permitted from the front circle drive onto Seventh Street. ***No student drop-off/pick-up in any parking lot***
- Bus route information may be found on [this district webpage](#) (if your child is eligible for bus service)
- Students will report to their designated holding areas upon entering the building, where they will find their name on a wall list that will tell them who their 1st period teacher is. Students will sit with that teacher until we dismiss to go to 1st period
 - ***6th graders will report to the Commons (cafeteria)***
 - ***7th graders will report to the Boys' Gym***
 - ***8th graders will report to the Girls' Gym***

Upcoming Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **Parent Coffee with the Principal** – Friday, August 24th, at 9:30 AM (these will occur monthly)
- **NEW!!! Sixth Grade Back-to-School Social** (courtesy of PALs)– Friday, August 24th, from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM. Visit the [campus webpage](#) for more details
- **Mid-Day Break with the Counselors** – Wednesday, September 12th, at 11:15 AM
- **Fall Open House** – Thursday, September 6th; more details coming soon

Be sure to visit our campus webpage frequently at <http://www.fortbendisd.com/slms>, and follow us on Twitter at [@SLMSTitans](#). We look forward to working with you and your family this year as we strive to add value and growth to every student every day. Please do not hesitate to contact us any time you have a question, concern, or compliment. We may be reached at (281) 634-3080.

Keith Fickel, Principal
Sugar Land MS