



## Back-to-School Information Sheet

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION:** *Thursday, August 29, 2019, from 8:15 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.* Students new to Eastern are invited to come in, meet their teachers, and learn their way around the school. The MCPS buses will run as usual in the morning and will return students to their bus stop at the conclusion of orientation. Students that already attended the summer orientation are encouraged to also attend this orientation.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:** *Tuesday, September 3, 2019.* All students will begin the first day in homeroom. Homeroom assignments will be posted on the front doors of the school and in the hallways on the first day of school. As soon as the students arrive to school, they must report to homeroom.

**SCHOOL HOURS:** The cafeteria opens at 7:30 for students who arrive at school between 7:30 a.m. and 7:50 a.m. Those students must remain in the cafeteria from 7:30 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. The school doors open at 7:50 a.m. Upon entering, students should report to their grade-level locations (6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 600 hall; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Gymnasium; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Cafeteria). At 8:00 a.m., students are dismissed to access their lockers and move to their 1<sup>st</sup> period classroom for breakfast. Breakfast is served in the classroom for all students from 8:05 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Students must be supervised in their 1<sup>st</sup> period class during this time. **Instruction begins at 8:15 a.m.** Students arriving after 8:15 a.m. are tardy. In order to achieve success, it is important that students attend school every day on time. The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. Students not staying for after-school activities are required to leave the building and school grounds by 3:10.

**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** Eastern offers a wide variety of after-school activities for enrichment and academic support. Activity buses are available Tuesday through Thursday, but do not run on the day before a day on which school is closed. The buses leave at 4:20. A list of activity bus stops is posted on the Eastern webpage. Information about after-school opportunities will be distributed to students after the start of the year.

**FREE RIDE-ON BUS ACCESS:** Using the Kids Ride Free program, students 18 years and younger can ride any Ride-On bus and most Metrobus route within Montgomery County without paying a fare from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. Monday- Friday year-round. The student must show the bus operator either a valid school ID or the student pass issued by Ride-On. Ride-On Route 14 stops in on Franklin Avenue in front of Eastern Middle School Monday – Friday. Please note: this free service is NOT available on days when school closes prior to 2:00 p.m.

**STUDENT SCHEDULES:** Students will receive their schedules at new student orientation or the first day of school or on the first day of school. We recognize that students and parents are anxious to learn what classes they are taking and whom their teachers are but we request that you not request your schedule early. Once schedules have been provided, questions or concerns should be directed to the Counseling Office at 301-650-6660.

**MEALS:** A free breakfast is provided daily to every Eastern student between 8:05 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Lunches may be purchased or brought from home. Lunches are scheduled between 10:17 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. Additional information about menus, school meal pricing, and the Free and Reduced Meal program is posted on the school website.

**GRAPHING CALCULATORS:** Beginning with Algebra I, students need graphing calculators to demonstrate mastery of the mathematics curriculum. Students are encouraged to buy their own graphing calculators to use during Algebra 1 and subsequent mathematics courses. The TI-84 is the suggested calculator and it can be purchased at most local stores including Target, Staples, and Wal-Mart. Eastern will loan out a limited supply of graphing calculators. Students must return calculators in working order at the end of the year. Your student's math teacher will let the class know if a graphing calculator will be necessary for their course.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** It is important that we can reach you in case your child is sick or there is a school emergency. Contact information will be requested during the first week of school. Please make sure to include any adults to whom you give permission to pick up your child. We cannot release a child to anyone not listed on the parent contact sheet. Please update this information and return it immediately to school with your child. If your contact information changes throughout the school year, please alert Ms. Lovo in counseling office at 301-650-6660 immediately.

**PTSA:** The Parent Teacher Student Association is an important partnership that brings all members of the school community together to support Eastern Middle School. All parents, students, and staff are encouraged to support the PTSA through membership, active participation in activities, volunteering, and/or financial contributions. Information from the PTSA is posted on the school's website.

**AGENDA BOOKS:** Eastern requires students to carry an agenda book. The agenda books are distributed to each student free of charge at the start of the school year. Replacement books can be purchased for \$5.00. The agenda book is a useful tool for recording homework, and important dates and deadlines. Teachers and parents can use the agenda book as a communication tool.