

*"I haven't failed. I've just found
10,000 ways that won't work."
– Thomas Edison*



Principal's Corner

September
11th–18th

Merrill Students and Families,

Wow! It's amazing that we are already finishing up our third week of the school year!

We are off to a great start and we truly thank you all for your support of our students.



As we enter the fourth week of school, students are nearly halfway through the first grading period. This year, we are operating on a quarter system. Each quarter is 9 weeks and each semester is 18 weeks.

This system allows students to explore more elective and enrichment classes, while also preparing students for the academic calendar of high school.

Student grades are updated each week by Friday. You can view your student's academic progress by checking grades in Parent Portal. Click [here](#) to register for Parent Portal.

Have a great weekend!

-Amy Bringedahl; Principal

Spirit Week

Monday – Merrill Day
Tuesday – Pajama Day
Wednesday – Wacky Tacky
Thursday – Twin Day
Friday – Fancy Friday

Athletics

Boys Soccer
September 14th
4:00 at **Hamilton Middle School**
September 18th
4:00 at **Merrill Middle School**

Softball
September 14th
4:00 at **Hamilton Middle School**
4:00 at **Hill Middle School**

Cross Country
September 15th
4:00 at **Fred Thomas Park**

Mark Your Calendar

September 14th-18th

Spirit Week

September 17th 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

CSC Meeting in the Library

September 17th 6:15 pm-7:30 pm

PTO Meeting in the Library

September 30th TBD

ELA PAC Event

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Students may arrive at school as early as 7:30 AM, and should be dropped off on Iowa, which is on the south side of the building. Students will walk from Iowa to our blacktop, where all students line up in the morning for school.

Students may be picked up in front of the school on Monroe at 3:35 PM. Please note that C3 parents are picking their students up on Monroe starting at 2:45. The parking lots on the north side (off Florida) and south side (off Iowa) are for staff only. Please do not use it to park. Thank you.

Attendance

At Merrill we strive for **95%** attendance from all students. We are off to a strong start this year with all grade levels at the 95% mark in the third week of school. Thank you parents for all that you do to ensure your student is at school every day, on time and prepared to learn!

Spirit Week!



Show your school spirit! Students are encouraged to dress up and enjoy the different themes we will have throughout the week. Here is what the week will look like:

September 14-18

Monday: Merrill Apparel - Red & Black

Tuesday: Pajama Day - NO ROBES ALLOWED

Wednesday: Wacky Tacky - Mismatch Tacky Styles

Thursday: Twin Day - Dress Like Your Friend

Friday: Fancy Friday - Fancy and Fresh

DRESS CODE APPROPRIATE

** Student-athletes are encouraged to participate in spirit week on game days.*



It's an exciting time of year....and as students transition into their sports, excitement and passion for their learning in the classroom remains at a high level. We look forward to the amazing student athletes taking the field or court in their sports!!! #ALLIN #STUDENTATHLETE

-Vince Franklin
Athletic Director



Next Week's Games

Boys Soccer

September 14th

4:00 pm at Hamilton Middle School

September 18th

4:00 at Merrill Middle School

Softball

September 14th

4:00 pm at Hamilton Middle School

September 18th

4:00 at Hill Middle School

Cross Country

September 15th

4:00 pm at Fred Thomas Park

Excellence in Athletics



Coach Miller strategizing with our softball players.

Both our softball and soccer teams began their journey to championships this week against Henry Middle School.

Softball fought hard against the defending champs. It was a great start to the season. A true team is forming with our girls! Ultimately, they came up short with a 5-1 loss.

Soccer also fought hard against a strong Eagles team. It was a close game with Merrill losing 2-3.

Parents Got Talent!

Merrill is looking for parents, grandparents, siblings who have talent for our first ever Parents Got Talent show!

What can you do? Sing, play guitar, dance, or comedy? We are looking for parents to come in and show off a talent they may have. Don't be shy - We need YOU!



So please, if you have any talent and would like to join, contact [Heba Nabhan](#) right away!
We only need six more parents for the show to run!!!

After School Programming

Starting soon, Merrill will once again be offering after school programs for our students. Please [click here](#) to share your thoughts and interests in after-school programming.

Student Council Elections

Our student council elections will be held next Wednesday, during advisement. We are looking forward to continuing to support the student voice at Merrill!

Merrill Community Fund



Want to support Merrill? Make a contribution to the Merrill Community Fund to enrich opportunities for students. What can you give – \$5, \$25, \$100, more? For more information, please visit <http://merrill.dpsk12.org/mcf/>.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Stay Connected with Social Media



Don't miss out on what happens on a daily basis at Merrill. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram (MERRILL_JAGUARS) and twitter (@merrill_jaguars).

News from the SmartLab



This week, our 8th graders explored how wind energy can be harnessed by creating a wind turbine in the SmartLab. While their attempt at harnessing wind energy was not as successful as they had previously planned, they quickly learned how trial and error plays a large part in engineering, and began brainstorming ways of improvement upon their design.

Rock on future scientists and engineers!

Teacher Spotlight

Victoria Dimarzio, our new Band Director, is an alumna of CU Boulder (Go Buffs!), from Leominster, MA (pronounced lemon-STAH). She would like to say her favorite thing to do with a Saturday is hiking, but more often you'll find her at home relaxing and watching Netflix.

She is a tea drinker who finds the Chinese tradition of Gong Fu Cha (which means Tea with Great Skill) is another great way to relax and enjoy time with friends.



Why did Ms. DiMarzio choose teaching as profession?



According to her, the story goes, "I decided to switch my major to an education degree about half way through my third semester in college because I had been teaching swim lessons since I was sixteen, and one morning during a lesson I realized I gained so much satisfaction watching my students grow." Ms. DiMarzio has high hopes for growth, enjoyment and achievement from her students in Band this year!