

Communiqué



September, 2006

Venture Academy says Welcome to our new staff....

Mrs. Sharon Malone comes to us from Valley Academy in Phoenix, a top ranked Phoenix charter school. Mrs. Malone will supervise all the teachers as they teach your children the Spalding *Writing Road to Reading* method, a great way to learn to read and write. Call her if you have any questions about any curriculum matters in grades K-3. She also wants to talk you about your child's progress.

Ms. Johnstonbaugh (grade 3) is a new teacher starting her career in grade three. Previously she substituted at Valley Academy Charter School and participated there as an involved parent. Her consistency and high expectations are just what our grade three students welcome,

after several changes last year. She's doing a great job.

Ms. Diane Coe (grade 2) comes to us from private schools and is a quite competent teacher with excellent classroom management skills. She teaches a wonderful group of grade 2 students who will be prepared for grade 3 next year.

Mr. Kent Simpson (grade 1) has agreed to stay with us for awhile in grade one. As you may or may not know, our original teacher left town the day before school started to attend her mother's funeral in Minnesota. She has not returned, so we asked Mr. Simpson to stay. His background is also in private schools, especially with older students, but he has had some experience with primary grades. Mrs. Malone is teaching reading in

first grade so they are getting two teachers every day.

Ms. Kate Whitmore (grade K) comes to us from a charter school in Flagstaff, where she also taught Kindergarten. She is doing an excellent job of getting the little ones (those who have the maturity) ready for school and ready to learn.

Before and After School Policies

There have been some changes in the **Before and After School Services**. Currently we are contracting with Touchstone Community to provide their **Journeys** program for after school only. We are still working with Touchstone to get the school premises certified by DES in order to provide less expensive childcare for families that qualify.

New bottom line for A.M.

Drop-off before 8:30 will be charged to parents by our A.M. care

provider, **Ms. Ardith Sherrill**. She opens the lunchroom at 7:00 a.m. Students need to go to the lunchroom when arriving before 8:30. Students arriving after 8:30 may go to their rooms if allowed by the teacher or play in the front yard. The gym will not be open at this time.



Breakfast is being served in the lunchroom for students enrolled in Miss Ardith's program. She charges 2.50 per morning and that includes a breakfast. Other students who need to eat may do so for a small fee. *Please send cash with your child if you want them to eat breakfast.*

After school—pick up your child before or by 4:00 in the lunchroom, where they will be participating in a study hall. Please send a snack for your child if they stay after school. Students staying after 4:00 will be charged by Touchstone Services.

Why is my middle school child studying Chinese?



It is essential for educated people to have a basic understanding of the culture and language of the societies which may impact them in their adult lives. Only students who continue with the Chinese class will be eligible for Honor Roll.



BPO Meeting announced!

The first BPO meeting will occur on Monday, September 11, 2006 at 6:30. A free (adult) Bennett shirt will be given to each family in attendance.

PROMOTION POLICY

Written: December 2005
Reviewed: August 31, 2006.
To be re-approved at next board meeting.

Bennett Academy students are held to a high standard. They must pass at least two of the AIMS sections to be promoted to the next grade. This will assure the students that they will pass the 10th grade AIMS test in high school.

Additionally, in order to be promoted to the next grade, students must earn an average of a solid 2 in each and all core subjects. See policy for details.

NEW: By the spring of 2007 students who fail one section of the AIMS test will need to attend summer school or individualized tutoring sessions at the family's expense, unless teacher fault is documented.

Did you read this?

Parents, cut out and send back the signature section in this column signed by *yourself*, and your child will receive 2 merits. If you send it back with a note *about one of the items in the Communiqué*, your child will receive **3** (three) merits! Please write the note in a complete sentence, in your handwriting, for verification purposes. (Merits will now buy water, school supplies, trips to 31 Flavors, a trip to the bowling alley and lots of fun items in the merit store.)

I have read the *Communiqué!*

_____.

Signed.

_____.

Student name/s

Comments:

_____.

(Use column if you need more space!)