



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ockley Green Middle School
6031 N. Montana Ave • Portland, OR 97217
(503) 916-5660

René Canler
Office of the Principal



Happy New Year!

Our middle school renaissance has been in production for several months! I appreciate everyone's patience throughout this transitional process. Our time has been spent listening and getting to know our community, as well as planning and preparing, based on those conversations. We look forward to our time together as we expect our relationships to flourish and your child(ren)'s education to blossom.

Part of the aforementioned planning includes our first day activities. As you may already know, the first day for our students is as follows:

- 5th and 6th graders begin Monday, August 29
- 7th graders begin Tuesday, August 30
- 8th graders begin Wednesday, August 31

The staggered start allows for focused attention to our grade levels on their day 1. Please note, that after their first day, students will continue coming to school, on time, everyday!

Our first day activities are planned as follows:

- Our doors open at 9 a.m. Students will be offered breakfast for free. They have the option to eat or not.
 - We will have our main entrance doors open as well as the cafeteria doors on Ainsworth open.
- At 9:12 a.m., students will be invited to the auditorium. Here, students will be welcomed into their Ockley Green Middle School. They will also:
 - Meet their teachers
 - Participate in a scavenger hunt to learn the school and meet their specials teachers
 - Receive their schedule and have a tour of the building
 - Ask questions
- Eat lunch and get to know the available recess options
- After lunch they will return to the auditorium and:
 - Learn about our expectations (and see their teachers perform)
 - Hear about the importance of attendance
- They will go to their 7th period class and:
 - Find their locker and practice getting into it
 - Participate in a final check in, offer feedback
 - And, receive a surprise

This process offers autonomy and support. Students will participate through the process together, with each other, and with the support of their teachers. ***Please remember, students are expected to arrive the day after their first day, even if the next day is the first day for another grade level.***

Throughout the year, you and your child(ren) will hear the following, consistent messaging.

- **Guard Instruction Time.** Uninterrupted instructional time is important and necessary for the learning process. The beginning of our practices and policies begin with physical and emotional **safety**, as well as with the intention to provide a well-planned, well-prepared, fun, uninterrupted day. As you may already know, our instructional day is from 9:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.
- **In School, On Time, Everyday.** Our attendance initiative is research driven and sound. Students with 95% attendance (or higher) graduate from high school. Attendance is the only correlating link to high school graduation. We won't push for perfect attendance because we know that we all get sick. We just ask you to reserve these absences for these occasions.
- **Reading is FUN!** We will have our 25 Book Challenge Kick-Off Assembly on Thursday, September 8! More information to come!
- **We are Ockley Green.** The building has been standing firm since the early 1900s, however we will stand in unity starting Monday, August 29. Together, we will succeed, we will learn and grow, and we will have *each other's backs*. This is our Ockley Green family.

Change is not easy. But when change is known, the planning and practices that follow are the scaffolds that soften the potentially hard transition. I welcome you and your child(ren) to our Ockley Green Middle School.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Attentively,
René Canler