Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year.

You can expect your students to gain the best instruction from some of the best educators in the state while at Sennett. Through a focus on our School Improvement Plan (SIP), teachers will provide engaging and challenging academic learning opportunities for your student to demonstrate their understanding of content, skills, and academic growth. We continue to build our capacity to deliver instruction through the model of Gradual Release of Responsibility, which allows for students to take the lead in their own learning.

We are here to support your student socially, emotionally, and academically. We value our relationships with families and look forward to collaborating with you around how to help your student succeed in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Dan Kigeya
Principal

School Mission Statement

Our mission statement aligns with the district’s mission statement first because it is an excellent statement of our calling as educators, and so that we can support consistency and alignment between our school and central office. Our mission is to ensure that our school is a thriving school, and that every student is college, career and community ready.

About Our School

Ray F. Sennett Middle school prides itself on small learning communities and our Dual Language immersion (DLI) and English Language Immersion (ELI) programs. Students are organized by grade level and work with to 2 - 3 core academic teachers. Additionally, one of these teachers serves as your student’s homeroom teacher. The goal of these smaller teacher teams and homerooms is to support relationship building among students and between students and staff. Although core classes are separated based on the DLI and ELI programs due to language needs, students travel to their encore classes as an entire grade. During these classes, at lunch, and in after school activities students have the potential to interact with any of their grade level peers.

Our curriculum is standards-based and common units are taught, while inter-disciplinary skills are emphasized. The integration of technology across the curriculum is a major goal, with emphasis on productivity skills that will empower students. This will be our fourth year as a school where each student has equitable access to a Chromebook in every class. New in the 2018-19 school year for all MMSD school students is the ability to take their Chromebooks home.

Our staff work continuously to develop students’ academic, emotional and social development to enhance school climate and the quality of our overall instructional program while providing a safe and secure environment where students are invited to learn and thrive to the best of their abilities.
Key Policies and Guidelines

Attendance
Please call 204-4020 to speak with someone or leave a message regarding a student absence.

Emergency Situations
Information about when the dates of our Code Red Drills and Tornado Drills are posted in the Family newsletter well in advance of the drill. We also practice monthly Fire Drills.

Fees
Please speak with a secretary in the main office regarding specific questions about fee waivers.

Field Trips
Field trip permission slips are critical in order for students to attend. Please speak with your student’s teacher about questions related to the trip or cost.

Food & Nutrition
Breakfast is served from 7:10 – 7:30 daily. There are 3 different lunch periods for students. Parents/guardians may place money on a student’s account online, or they can stop in the main office. The weekly menu is available on the Sennett homepage.

Gifts for Staff
If you are so moved, rather than monetary gifts, we ask that you send heartfelt words of encouragement and appreciation to staff. If you’d like to do a monetary donation, please consider giving to one of our endowment funds through the Foundation of Madison Public Schools located on this site: https://fmmps.org/donate/?fwp_search_donations=sennett%20middle

Illness
We require all students to go to the health office for an assessment prior to calling home and asking to leave school.

Transportation
Please report any student safety concerns to the main office (204-1920). Students must be sure to lock their bikes on one of the bike racks.

Transportation is provided by Madison Metro Transit. Bus routes for Sennett students can be found on the Madison Metro Transit website www.cityofmadison.com/metro/ or in the Sennett Middle School Main Office. 10 Ride Youth Bus Passes are available for purchase all year round in the Sennett Middle School Main Office for $11.25. Full Semester EZ Rider Passes are available through Madison Metro Transit for $165.00.
Anti-Bullying
Preventing bullying is a top priority. We encourage students and families to report any instances of bullying/harassment immediately so that the process for addressing it can be followed in a timely manner. Students and families can access bullying report forms on the Sennett and MMSD websites, the front office, or in any classroom. We also continue to build anti-bullying capacity with our students in Homeroom by helping students build social-emotional skills in small learning communities.

Behavior Education Plan
The Behavior Education Plan, or BEP, provides a district-wide framework for discipline and consequences. At Sennett, we are committed to teaching and reinforcing appropriate and positive behaviors. Additionally we implement Restorative Justice, Take a Break & Take a Break and Come Back, and a universal Tardy and Cell Phone Policy to support student behavior and learning. Additionally, our Behavior Response Team and Student Support Team are additional adults who support teaching and responding to behaviors.

Dress Code
Generally, students may dress in any style they desire as long as their chosen attire does not cause a disruption or distraction in the school environment, reveal intimate body parts, or pose a safety risk to the student or others. The following examples are intended to represent these limitations:

- Students may not wear hats during the school day.
- Students may not wear multi-fingered rings, large metal chains or other jewelry that may be used as a weapon.
- Students must wear their pants at a level that does not expose undergarments. Boxers, thong underwear, and athletic shorts may not show over the waistband.
- Students may not wear clothing with vulgar or obscene statements or pictures promoting illegal drugs, alcohol, sex, violence or gang activities.
- Students may not wear clothing with words, pictures or caricatures based on negative stereotypes of a specific gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation or disability. Students may not wear shirts, hats or other attire with Native American team names, logos or mascots that depict negative stereotypes. A list of team names, logos and mascots prohibited under this provision is available at all schools and on the district website.
- Students may not wear skirts or shorts that expose undergarments or the buttocks.
- See-through clothing items are not permitted. Tops should be sufficient so as not to expose a student’s bra.
- Students must wear shoes or footwear.

Students who are dressed in a manner that does not fit within these guidelines may be asked by school staff to change their clothing or address the dress code violation. Students are expected to follow staff direction regarding dress code violations.

Parent/Teacher Conferences
We look forward to meeting with all of our parents/guardians during November conferences and on an as-needed basis for March conferences.

Family and Community Engagement
We are committed to partnering with our families to improve the quality of education and experiences for students at Sennett. In our School Improvement Plan (SIP), we aim to design ways to involve families in school events and create opportunities for engagement with our Family and Community Engagement Team. This team meets once per month. We value diversity and input from every family and community partner.

Student Computer Use
Sennett is excited to be a school where technology is integrated into the curriculum. Policies and procedures have been developed and are communicated to parents through the Family Guidelines document available online or at registration. Proper computer use and being good digital citizens is highly valued. Violations of the device agreements may result in computer and login privileges being revoked.
Cell Phones and Electronic Devices
Our electronic device policy states that students must have their phones, iPods, etc. powered OFF during the school day, from 7:35 - 2:42. If students need to communicate with home, we ask that they go to the main office rather than text or call on their cell phone. If phones or other similar devices are out AND disrupt the learning environment, the phone and/or device will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day for the first offense. Additional offenses will require the parent/guardian to come into the main office and pick up the device.

School Improvement Planning (SIP)
The School Improvement Plan is the core of our academic and social-emotional instruction and practice. Our School Based Leadership Team (SBLT) is responsible for the development of the SIP. The team meets bi-weekly to go over data that informs a plan for professional development that best supports the needs of our students.

Find more information in the district policy guide, found at www.mmsd.org/policy-guide.