

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\* PARENTS! Please sign the last page!

A.T.P. Welcome Information 18-19

**Dear Parents and Students,**

Welcome or welcome back to A.T.P. for the 2018-19 school year. In order for this year to be a year of progress, engagement, mutual responsibility, and fun, we want to begin the year with the dissemination of lots of pertinent enrichment information for all families and a setting of expectation for all students who attend seminar time here at the MS.

1. **Students can and will sign up for a minimum of 1-2 ATP Seminar days each cycle as in previous years. Each student will receive a pass the week of September 10, 2018 inviting him/her to come and visit with their ATP teacher to confirm seminar times and begin to develop goal plans for the fall.**

*(ATP Seminar happens during team time for all students (opposite lunch) – students will advance work toward their GIEP goals during this time, prepare for gifted activities, and collaborate with gifted peers.)*

1. **Attendance for seminar time OR personal communication about *absence* from seminar is MANDATORY. Students who “cut” scheduled seminar sessions will have consequences (warning, communication home, and conferences with admin if consistent.)**
2. **Options for student seminar times this year will be offered on Days 1, 2, 3, 5 with day 6 as a requirement for Mrs. Reiche’s students.**

*(Students should begin now to observe which of these five days would best fit their interest in team time activities as well as band/chorus obligations*.)

FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

* **Day 4 is designated for gifted support teachers to attend all 6 team meetings in the building to gather feedback from teachers and collaborate about enrichment projects.**
* **Day 6, Mrs. Bickell and Mrs. Reiche set aside for Mock Trial (M.T.) Competition team meetings and students preparing for the spring Academic Showcase Days. (More information about these opportunities will come in late fall – tryouts for M.T. in early December.)**

**List of KEY Dates on back!**

**IMPORTANT FALL 2018-2019 A.T.P. DATES:**

August 27th *2018-2019 School Year Begins*

(For first few weeks of school, ALL students are busy in orientation meetings with principals, teams, intro to band & chorus, etc.)

Back to School Night Mrs. Bickell and Mrs. Reiche will hold a 15 minute session for all parents in the LGI 15 minutes prior to the start of the night. Please come join us!

September 10th Passes *Arrive* in HB for students to attend 2 Orientation Sessions

September 10-21st **Orientation Sessions** for all 7 teams held. Check pass for your days!

September 21nd G.I.E.P. Student Goal Plans Officially Assigned

October 1st *Annual G.I.E.P. Parent/Student Meetings Scheduled to Begin*

(We will hold approximately 12-15 every month this school year.)

October 15th Completed G.I.E.P. **Goal Plans** **Due** (signed by regular ed teacher) AND Parent signatures on THIS Welcome Letter Due.

October 16th **Permanent Passes** (laminated) ***arrive*** for students who should begin attending seminar on the two ATP days indicated on the pass.

October 16th Individual Fall Student Goal Meetings *begin* with Mrs. Bickell and Mrs. Reiche

Early November Look out for *Mock Trial Competition* information and Mock Trial Audition Packets

Late November Auditions for Mock Trial Team

Early December Mock Trial memorization, preparation, and research underway!

Mid-December Academic Showcase Student Leadership Team assembled

Parent and students, please don’t hesitate to reach out about anything enclosed, questions about the enrichment opportunities below, or anything I can help you with as we settle into an exciting new year. I look forward to meeting all you.

Regards,

Stacia Bickell and Patrice Reiche

*OJRMS Gifted Support Teachers (*[*sbickell@ojrsd.com*](mailto:sbickell@ojrsd.com)*) (* [*preiche@ojrsd.com*](mailto:preiche@ojrsd.com) *)*

**2018-2019**

**OTHER MS ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES – Outside of ATP**

1. **Student Yearbook Editor Position-** Mrs. Armstrong, the Student Yearbook Advisor is looking for a student with strong ELA skills to assume the role of OJRMS Student Yearbook Editor this year for our OJR yearbook.  The duties will mainly be in the months of January and February as the final piece is being edited and sent to the publisher. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mrs. Armstrong in Room 181.

1. **K’Nex Competition Club -** Mrs. Neiffer, 7th and 8th grade science teacher is again hosting a competition squad for science-minded students.  **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mrs. Neiffer in Room 215.

1. **Project Innovate/ Art Club –** Hosted by OJRMS art teacher Mrs. Duffy, the student design challenge changes each year. Last year was “Make and Present Wearable Art” out of R.R.A.N.T. materials (recycled, re-purposed, altered, and non-traditional materials).  This group will meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays starting in late September and get prepared for the Showcase some day in late May.  Mrs. Duffy also hosts an afternoon student Art Club, listen to AM and PM announcements for more information. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mrs. Duffy in Room 133.

1. **Odyssey of the Mind -** For **our** district, according to Mr. Palochak (one of the three current sponsors): We will be giving an audition exam in late October to determine who will comprise our 3 middle school teams, the date has not yet been decided.  The test takes place on a Friday, after school 3:30 to 4:30, in the East Vincent cafeteria.  He will run an announcement later in October to announce the exact date.  Practices for most teams are held weekly on Saturday mornings from 8:00 until noon. The first two competitions are also on Saturdays, Regional Competition in March, State Finals in April, dates and locations can be found on the Odyssey website. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: Refer to [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com)
2. **Middle School Musical** – Mrs. Markofski and Mr. Yoder will direct a full-scale MS Variety Show. The show offers opportunities for students to act, sing, write skits, showcase martial arts, deliver comedy, dance, etc. OR participate in set design, lighting, and stage crew. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: Listen for AM and PM announcements from Mrs. Markofski this fall for information.
3. **Student / Faculty Dodge Ball Tournament** – This is a charity event and students have the opportunity to field a team to enter in the tournament to play against student and teacher teams. It is a night of fun and a chance to earn money for a charitable organization. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mr. Hoagland in Room 226.
4. **“Make a Difference Day” Canned Food Drive** – Our fall food drive at OJR from October 14-28th will need student leaders to “talk up” the food drive, collect and store food, and be home base representatives to make this event a success. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Ms. Rumpp for details in Room 219.
5. **Academic Showcase Leadership Team** – In late May, our ATP students will host a series of showcase days. Gifted students who are interested in helping to plan and lead should apply. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mrs. Bickell for details.
6. **Reading Olympics** – OJRMS sponsors a Middle School Team every year and students who want to invest a portion of their in-school time can sign up for Reading Olympics as their school club and those who want to read independently and just attend the competition in the spring are also welcome to join. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Ms. Wallen in Room 161.
7. **Math Counts** – OJRMS fields a Math Counts competition team each year under the guidance of Mr. Charleston. (Practice times happen after school beginning in the fall, but students with fall sports and other after school fall responsibilities can jump in after their season has ended.) **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mr. Charleston in Room 221.
8. **Peer Mentoring** – In collaboration with the OJRMS Guidance Office, the ATP program has developed a volunteer organization to help mentor students who are academically and/or socially in need of peer mentorship. Students who volunteer for this program will attend sessions with peers who have reached out for help. Mentors will work with students to help them get organized, teach them study skills, offer homework help, and even provide some students with one friendly, supportive face in their school environment. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mrs. Bickell in Room 145.
9. **Spelling Bee** – The OJRMS Spelling Bee is open to all students. Participating students will be given a list of words to study for the school-based bee. The winner of the spelling bee will achieve to the county level as our representative. Students who qualify for the school team will need to attend a couple of study sessions. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mrs. Frank in Room 125.

1. **Operation Angel / Student Council Opportunities** – OJRMS Student Council is always looking for involved students to assume leadership roles in our community. SC needs homeroom representatives to deliver school information and manage school initiatives. Our biggest community fundraiser is called Operation Angel. Each homebase “sponsors” a child at Christmastime and the SC homeroom representative takes the money raised by the homebase to shop at the Exton Mall or at the Target for the sponsored child. **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD**: See Mr. Hofer in Room 138 / Mrs. Dede in Room 163 or simply sign up for Student Council Club.
2. **Other Contests and Competitions -** In the ATP classroom I have posted a series of unique competitions with various deadlines throughout this school year.  Some of the competitions are for writers, scientists, artists, history buffs, etc.  Please alert me to other opportunities not listed so can share with our community of gifted learners!

*Welcome Letter Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Welcome Letter* ***Parent*** *Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Parent & Student Signatures - DUE to Mrs. Bickell & Mrs. Reiche, Oct. 15th**