

From the Principal  
Getting Off to the Right Start

Welcome back to the routines of fall! The lazy days of summer have long passed and given way to the frenzy of the back to school season. The carpool zone is busy with vehicles loaded with backpacks, instruments, lunchboxes, half-eaten bagels and of course, the mountains of forms that need to be returned to the school office. What's a family to do?

To help your family navigate the busy fall schedule, you might consider:

1. Having your child lay out his/her clothes, socks, shoes etc. in the evening
2. Setting up an area near the door where backpacks, instruments and lunchboxes can be stored.
3. Involving your child in packing his/her lunch in the evening
4. Posting a visual "to-do" schedule to guide your child through the morning tasks. (Even better if your child makes it)
5. Talking about the day's events with your child over breakfast or on the way to school

As children adjust to school routines, we sometimes see tears over forgotten lunches, tardy slips or uncertainty about pick-up routines. If you can find a few moments to help your child practice organizational strategies and talk about what's coming in the day, you will help your child feel more relaxed and prepared for the school day. The upper elementary grades are the perfect time to teach routines and strategies that will help your child reach new levels of independence.

For those times when mistakes happen and you need to drop something off at school after class has started, please bring items to the school office so that we do not interrupt instruction. Thank you for your help!