Hello Von Steuben Families,

I am so excited to be coming to Von Steuben this year as your new principal! Dr. Janovetz will be enjoying her well-deserved retirement life, but I know she will miss you terribly. Wow, what a crazy time we have been living in. I trust that we will come back stronger, more resilient, and hyper-aware of the priceless value each one of us have.

We are very fortunate to have most of our great teachers returning to us. This consistency with our teachers who believe in our mission is advantageous in providing your child with the best possible experience. We will have a couple of new smiling faces, so I will be sure to introduce our new Vikings as soon as their appointments are finalized and official.

I am coming to Von Steuben with a passionate dedication to serve not only the students, but the families and the entire community as well. The staff is prepared to embrace the unprecedented challenges we now face with an unwavering commitment to providing each student with a safe, nurturing, and positive learning environment. Like you, we have high expectations for your child. We know that education can change lives. There will be many events and opportunities throughout the year to partner with Von Steuben and get involved. Please plan to take time to get to know your child’s teachers, because these affirmative relationships provide great support for your child and reinforce the importance of school.

Due to COVID-19, most students will be on a Blended Virtual A/B Learning Schedule. Students’ temperatures will be checked each day when they arrive at school. Students must bring hand sanitizer to school and must wear a face mask while in school and on the school bus.

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 19, 2020. School starts at 8:30 a.m. and dismisses at 2 p.m. Attached are some important dates and other information for you. Keep in mind that these things are subject to change due to COVID-19. I will be sure to keep you informed if changes happen.

I am really looking forward to meeting all of you. Please visit our website and Facebook page for updated information. I will be sending out phone calls as well. Enjoy the rest of your summer break, and we will see you all soon. Don’t forget to keep reading!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Cruz
Principal, Von Steuben Middle School
309-672-6561

Mrs. Annie Nevitt
Assistant Principal

Our mission is to guarantee each student will develop a strong academic and social foundation to meet the challenges in an ever-changing society by providing a safe, positive learning environment; creating partnerships among students, families, staff and community members; preparing students for transition to high school; honoring diversity and ensuring a staff dedicated to professional growth and student learning.
IMPORTANT DATES

Certain aspects of the 2020-2021 school year may be subject to change due to the effects of COVID-19. Rest assured, if any changes happen, we will keep you informed and updated on those changes.

- Online Registration: July 8th – August 18th for returning students who have not changed their address.
- **Registration deadline for All Virtual Learning @ Home is Friday, June 24th.**
- New Student Registration: Saturday, August 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Tuesday, August 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, August 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- New Student Orientation/ Unpack your Backpack – Tuesday, August 18th, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- First Day of School – Wednesday, August 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Student Registration:**
- August 8th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This is a Saturday (Manual HS. and Peoria HS)
- August 11th, 9:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. (Manual HS and Peoria HS).
- August 13th, 9:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. (Manual HS and Peoria HS)

If your child is new to Von Steuben you will need to visit one of the registration hubs. The hubs will be Manual High School and Peoria High School. You must provide a water bill or Ameren bill as proof of address.

**Returning Student Registration:** Students returning to Von Steuben who have not had a change of address may complete the registration process online through Family Access. Between July 8th and August 18th, log into Family Access and click on the Start Enrollment Verification for the 2020-2021 School Year. Here you will be able to access and complete the student enrollment form, emergency contact information, photo release, school network agreement, free/reduced lunch form, textbook application and more!

**New Student Orientation and Unpack your Backpack:** This will be held Tuesday, August 18th from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Families are invited to meet the teachers, tour the building, get your lock and drop off supplies in the classroom.

**School Hours and Drop Off:** The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 19, 2020. This will be a full day of school. School begins at 7:30 a.m. and dismisses at 1:30 p.m. Students may enter the building at 7:15. At that time they will come in and gather in the gym (this is a new procedure). We ask that students do not arrive before 7:15 a.m. as there is no supervision, and students will remain outside. Students need to arrive before 7:30 to avoid being marked tardy.

**Attendance:** Regular and timely attendance is important to ensure students have the best learning opportunity possible. Please have your child at school on time and avoid scheduling appointments during school hours whenever possible. If your child is ill, please call the school or send a note within 48 hours to avoid having them marked as unexcused. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain correct records and minimize students being away from school for unexcused absences as outlined in compulsory attendance laws for the State of Illinois.

**Uniforms:** Pants: uniform style - solid blue, black or khaki. Shirts: collared - solid blue, black or white (no lettering). More details can be found in the handbook.

Our **mission** is to guarantee each student will develop a strong academic and social foundation to meet the challenges in an ever-changing society by providing a safe, positive learning environment; creating partnerships among students, families, staff and community members; preparing students for transition to high school; honoring diversity and ensuring a staff dedicated to professional growth and student learning.