Hello Von Steuben Families,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2021-22 school year! I don’t know about you, but I am so happy to be putting the pandemic year behind us. We are entering the 2021-22 school year with renewed hope for a return to a resemblance of normal. I have nothing but appreciation and admiration for our entire school community for their grit, patience, and endurance. We experienced many “firsts” over the last year and even picked up some new skills along the way that will serve us well in the future. I trust that we will come back stronger, more resilient, and hyper-aware of the priceless value each one of us have.

My transition to Von Steuben was certainly not what I anticipated it would be. One thing that became abundantly clear very early on is just how dedicated the Von Steuben staff is to our students, families, and our community. The staff is prepared to embrace this new school year committed to the well-being of your child and providing your child with a quality education. We set the bar high, just as you would have us do, to allow for students to realize their potential and to overcome any obstacles that may stand in the way of reaching it. We know adversity is a reality, but we also 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.

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 18, 2021. School hours will be from 8:20 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Please refer to the back of this letter for 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 this new school year. 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,

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

Our mission is to help students to be productive citizens by developing academic, social, emotional, higher order thinking skills, and peacemaking skills that will prepare them for high school, college and their future careers in a welcoming environment of mutual respect, nonviolence, and trust.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- First Day of School – Wednesday, August 18th from 8:20 a.m.– 2:50 p.m.

Student Registration:
- All students new to Peoria Public Schools will complete registration online. You will need to upload a copy of the student’s birth certificate and 2 documents for proof of address. You can also bring those documents to the school you are assigned to after registration is complete. Online enrollment for new students is open now.
- Current Von Steuben students who will be moving will need to go in person to the one-day registration HUB at Peoria High School on July 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to update information and provide proof of address.
- If your child is new to Von Steuben, you will need to provide a water bill or Ameren bill as proof of address.
- Students returning to Von Steuben who have not had a change of address should log into Family Access in mid-July to complete any forms and update information such as emergency contact information. It is important that contact information and emergency information is current and up to date.

New Student Orientation and Unpack your Backpack: This will be held Tuesday, August 17th 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 18, 2021. This will be a full day of school. School begins at 8:20 a.m. and dismisses at 2:50 p.m. Students may enter the building at 8:05. Students will enter the building at their designated doors (same procedure as last school year).
- 5th grade students will enter in Door 2 (by teacher parking lot and go into the cafeteria using the first set of doors on the left.
- 6th grade students will enter in Door 1 (the front, main door) and go into the cafeteria using second set of doors on the right.
- 7th grade students will enter in Door 11 (the door used during games) and go straight to their designated area in the gym.
- 8th grade students will enter in Door 10 (the gym door) and go straight to their designated area in the gym.
We ask that students do not arrive before 8:05 a.m. as there is no supervision, and students will remain outside. Students need to arrive before 8:20 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 (light or navy), black or white (no lettering). More details can be found in the handbook.