



6001 N Frostwood Pkwy • Peoria, IL 61615
309 693 4437 phone • 309 693 4438 fax • www.peoriapublicschools.org/markbills

July, 2019

Dear Mark Bills Families,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation. I am thrilled to be back at Mark Bills for a new year of learning! I want to express my appreciation for your continued support. Mark Bills is truly a special school and I appreciate the opportunity to work with your children. The staff and I are looking forward to the opening of our new school year and new school approach with being Peoria's first personalized learning school. Personalized learning is a student-first approach to education that will support your child's needs and help them succeed academically. This involves incorporating digital tools and multimedia and promoting skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Learning is "student-centered," which means they make choices in how they proceed and demonstrate what they know based on their interests and the manner in which they learn best. We will be focusing quite a bit on careers and interests that drive their passions to learn.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Thursday, July 11th** – Online registration for returning MBS students opens. Families should login to Family Access on or after July 11th and complete the registration steps by clicking on the "Online Enrollment Verification" link on the main screen. This link will be available on each student's screen within the family.
- **Thursday, July 25th**– Student registration hubs are open from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm at Peoria High, Harrison, Glen Oak and Kellar.
- **Saturday, July 27th** – Backpack Peoria @ the Dream Center from 9:00 am -12:00 pm- includes registration and health services
- **Tuesday, August 13th** –**Back to School Night/Annual Title 1- 5:30-6:30.** Families are invited to meet the teachers and drop off supplies in the classroom/locker. This is a great way to get rid of the beginning of the year jitters! A light dinner will be served for those in attendance. Parents will also hear about the personalized learning.
- **Wednesday, August 14th** – First day of school for students. BooHoo/Yahoo coffee in library 7:15-7:45 for parents dropping off students

-Back to School Night- Tuesday, August 13th from 5:30-6:30. We will take you on a "Flight" through this upcoming year! Once you grab your "passport" you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and hear about some of the exciting programs and opportunities that are available to our students and visit the all new makerspace! Students will bring in their school supplies and locker things as well. A light dinner will be served this evening.

-Boohoo/ Yahoo Breakfast- Wednesday, August 14th- Please plan to attend the Boohoo/Yahoo! coffee immediately following drop off on the first day of school in the library. All parents are invited to join us for a time of lighthearted fun. Get to know other parents and share the moment of sending your kids off to school for the first day whether it is to Boohoo or to Yahoo! We'll supply the tissues!

-Back to School Hours – School begins at 7:30 am and dismisses at 1:30 pm from August 14- August 30th. This year we will continue "grab and go" with our breakfast, eating in the classrooms during homeroom. We begin breakfast on the first day of school. Students should arrive at 7:15 every day on the back playground/ or inside if inclement weather.

-Attendance – It is important that students have regular attendance at school. If your child is sick and must be absent from school, please call the school office by 7:45 A.M. If you do not call, you will receive a recorded phone message informing you that your child is absent and will be marked as unexcused. If your child has an appointment or you have



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not called, please send a note when your child returns to school. We appreciate your support in helping us keep our records accurate.

-Uniforms – Students are expected to follow the Mark Bills dress code policy. We appreciate your support by purchasing clothes that meet the guidelines listed below.

- **Shirts** – White, navy blue, light blue or black. Shirts must have a collar and be a solid color with no logo, lettering, writing, designs, or embellishments (such as beading or embroidery). Sleeveless shirts and tank tops are not allowed. Spirit wear is sold during the year and may be worn any day of the week. Solid sweatshirts in black, blue or gray without a hood are allowed.
- **Slacks/Shorts/Skirts** – Navy blue, black, or khaki with no embellishment or designs. Pants and shorts must be plain dress pants or shorts. If pants have belt loops, a belt must be worn. Every effort should be made to purchase pants in the correct size to avoid pants that sag or are revealing. **Please note – denim pants of any color, stretch pants, sweatpants, and nylon warm-up pants are not acceptable.**
- **Shoes** – Students may wear dress shoes without heels or tennis shoes. Flip flops, high heels, or shoes where the backs/ toes are open are not accepted for safety reasons. Tennis shoes are encouraged.

-PTC – The Mark Bills Parent Teacher Club is an active group that supports the school in many ways. We would love to have you attend meetings and take an active role in the PTC. If you are unable to attend meetings, please consider supporting the PTC in other ways including sending food or supplies for events or helping with fundraisers and school activities. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, in the school library.

-FIRST DAY COMPLIANCE – The Board of Education requires health documentation compliance by the first day of school. Students not in compliance for physical exam and immunizations by the first day of school (August 14, 2019), will not be allowed to start the school year until all health documentation requirements are met. **For middle school, 6th graders will need the following:**

- Physical exam – “Dated within one year of the first day of school”
 - Health history (completed and signed by parent/guardian)
 - Diabetes Screening Assessment (practitioner report)
- Proof of 1 Meningococcal shot (MCV4) – given at age 10 years or later.
- Proof of 1 Tdap (Adult Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) shot – given at age 7 years or later
- Proof of 3 Hepatitis B shots (normally given in infancy – most students are already compliant)
- 2 Varicella (Chicken Pox) shots or proof of having had the disease
- Dental Examination – Due May 15th – “Dated within 18 months prior to May 15th”

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 13 at 5:30 pm for Back to School night. Please feel free to call me or email me with any questions or concerns- 693-4437 or markbills@psd150.org Thank you for sharing your child with us at Mark Bills. We look forward to another great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura V. Rodgers".

Laura V. Rodgers
Principal