

Salina Intermediate School

September 8, 2015



Learning

For

Life

Dear Salina Intermediate Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year! We hope that you enjoyed the summer break with your family and friends.

Over the summer, a team of teachers and administration traveled to Dallas, Texas to learn about a new program that we will be implementing at Salina Intermediate this year. We were trained in AVID. "AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing students for college readiness and success in a global society." You can learn more about this program during our first Parent Principal Forum which is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th at 8:30.

We are very excited to begin this school year. Many teachers have been preparing their classrooms and collaborating together since mid-August.

This year, we will continue to work together as a professional learning community and focus on the following goals:

- Continue to analyze data to inform instruction for individual students in order to close the gap.
- To increase student achievement.
- To maintain a positive school culture at Salina Intermediate School.

We are committed to creating a positive learning environment with your support. A strong partnership with the parents and the community will help our children receive the best education, and succeed. We look forward to seeing all parents participate in their child's education during the 2015-2016 school year.

Remember, communication is key! We will communicate through monthly newsletters, our web-site, teacher iblogs, notes and robo-phone calls. For specific questions, please call or stop by the main office between the hours of 7:30-4:30 daily. The office can be reached at 313-827-6600. Please remember to report your child's absence in the event he/she will not be attending school.

Together, we will make this a great start to the school year!
Sincerely,

Mr. Lawera

2623 Salina
Dearborn, MI 48120
Voice: 313-827-6600
Fax: 313-827-6605

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Salina Intermediate School
Mr. Jamel Lawera, Principal

Paying attention in class

The ability to pay attention and ignore distractions during class is a key trait of successful students—and it's something your child can learn to do. Share these tips with him.

Start before the bell

Arriving on time and organizing his materials will help your middle grader get focused. For example, he should take out his textbook, notebook, and pen or pencil. He can also glance over last night's homework before handing it in—it will refresh his memory about the previous day's material and help him understand new information.

Be active

The more he gets involved with what's going on in class, the more attentive he will be. Suggest that he jot down questions he thinks of as the teacher talks. This will encourage him to listen closely to see if he answers them. If not, he can raise his hand to ask. He can stay focused

during group discussions, too, by writing down important points that others make, and by sharing his own ideas.

Avoid distractions

Remind him to tune out activities or noises that aren't part of the lesson. Sitting in the first row can help—he won't be distracted by people in front of him, and he'll have a better view of the board. If he uses a computer to take notes, he will need to turn off programs and close websites that aren't class related. Also, he should make sure his phone is silenced and put away. ☹️

Back-to-school routines

A good day at school begins and ends with a pleasant routine at home. Try these ideas for establishing good habits with your child.

A fresh start

A calm morning can help your youngster go to school with a positive attitude. Build an extra 10 minutes into his wake-up time so he won't be rushed if he spills food on his shirt or misplaces his glasses. Also, let him think of tasks he could do the night before, such as showering or putting his musical instrument by the front door.

Backpack check

Use your child's backpack to spark conversations about school. Sit together while he goes through it, and talk about what's inside. If he shows you his report on elephants, you might say, "I didn't know they could eat 300 pounds of food in a day!" or "What was the most interesting thing you learned about elephants?"

Screen-time limits

Large doses of TV, video games, and apps can distract your youngster from his "job": being a student. Encourage him to spend free time playing outside with friends or reading for pleasure. *Note:* Experts recommend no more than two hours of screen time per day (and many parents limit it further). ⚡

