



August 7, 2016

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and enjoyed time outside playing Pokemon Go. Just kidding. If you are new to Conrad Ball this year, I would like to welcome you to our family and let you know that you have made a great choice to join us. For those of you returning, welcome back and thank you for always supporting your middle school and making this the greatest place to work. We also want to say thank you for allowing us to share this time with your students and for choosing this as your middle school. These middle school years can be unique, challenging and rewarding, and as a team we will support your student as they become young adults.

This year, students will have more opportunities for Project Based Learning (PBL) and you will see a stronger emphasis on our work habits along with standards-based instruction. We will continue to report out on the non-academic areas, work habits, and hope that your student can communicate where they are with these skills along with their academic areas. If you ever are curious about scoring, please login to your Parent Portal account, as this has the most up-to-date information for your student. Our staff is committed to entering scores in weekly and can certainly answer any questions you might have about scoring.

We will continue to have planners this year and this is one of the best ways you can see what is going on with homework and reminders. This planner is filled with information and you should see it daily. If you are not seeing the planner at home, remind your student that you would like to see the planner, as it's a great tool for you and your student.

Our bell schedule will support the PBL model and you will see that we have a new schedule. This schedule will be available as an attachment and posted in the planner. We do want to make sure that you are all aware of campus hours as these are set for your child's safety. We always want to ensure that staff is on campus with your student and those times are from 7am to 3pm. We know many of you have other children at the elementary school, and would like to make sure you have a plan to ensure that our students are off campus by 3 pm. Our staff is on duty during those times and is dedicated to being available to students. Speaking of safety, we know many of you personally and still require all adults to show ID when they are picking up their student. This is for the safety of your student and others. We understand that many of you are just running in to quickly pick up your student and want you to be prepared with some form of picture ID. Thank you for supporting us with the safety of all of our students and we appreciate those who always show their ID at the door.

Our technology integration is changing this year and you will learn about these changes as you attend our Back to School Night on August 25, 2016, starting at 5pm. We have learned so much over the past five years and want to make sure that parents have the critical information to support the use of the iPad as an educational tool.

I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of our students who have helped us hire our team for the year, as our process is unlike many others. I am very proud of our process as we require our candidates to teach a lesson, unlike the traditional interview with only adults in attendance. We take pride in hiring the best teachers possible and if you ever want to hear more about our process, feel free to ask our staff.

When it comes to communication we know that this age group is unique in the sense that it doesn't always make it all the way home. We use a system that blasts information out via email and text message. We have a new app that you can download for Thompson School District and this tool is helpful when looking for crucial information. If you are not receiving emails from the school, please make sure that your Parent Portal account is updated and that you have downloaded the Thompson School District app. and added Conrad Ball Middle School. If you need any support getting this information, please don't hesitate to call and ask for support.

Below are important dates for the first few weeks of school. Be sure to check the Conrad Ball Middle School website for announcements and other important information. Thank you for the continued support and partnership as we kick off a great 2016-2017 school year.

Important Dates:

August 18th	Schedules released on Parent Portal
August 19th	6th Grade Transition Day- we meet on the north blacktop at 7am-725am
August 22nd	All students have school- campus opens at 7am, school starts at 725am ends at 247pm
August 25th	Back to School Night- starts at 5pm in the gym- we will have school pictures and IDs
September 5th	Labor Day- No School for students
September 6th	Professional Day for staff- No School for students
September 16th	Picture Day for all students

Helpful Links:

Conrad Ball Middle School	http://www.thompsonschoools.org/Domain/30
Free and Reduced Application	http://thompsons nutrition.org
Online Fee Payment	https://thompson.revtrak.net/tek9.asp?pg=default
Calendar for 2016-2017	http://thompson.k12.co.us/cms/lib07/CO01900772/Centricity/Domain/3403/2016-17SchoolYearCalendar.pdf
Supply List for middle school	http://thompson.k12.co.us/cms/lib07/CO01900772/Centricity/Shared//_sharedFiles/MiddleSchoolSupplyList2016-17.pdf
Parent Portal	https://campus.thompsonschoools.org/campus/portal/thompson.jsp

I look forward to working with you this year and serving you and your students as principal. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night and having a great school year.

Go T-Birds!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Miller
Principal

6Th Grade Parents:

Welcome to CBMS. We are looking forward to growing our T-Bird family and want to give you a few informational items about Transition Day. Students will meet on the north blacktop area between 7 am and 7:25 am. Staff will be circulating and available for questions, as you drop off your student. Students will be greeted as they walk in the gym and will enjoy a day of activities. Our cafeteria will be available, or you can choose to send a lunch with your student. The money in your account will roll up from last year, but please make sure you have money in the account, if your student plans to eat school lunch. Students will not need their backpacks or any supplies the first few days of school. We want to focus on getting to know your student and will let them know when to bring all materials.

Please have a pick-up plan prior to the first day. We want to make sure your student knows how they are getting home and want them to enjoy the day and not stress about transportation. We encourage parents to use the north entrance drop-off area if the student is not walking or riding the bus. We care about our students' safety, and ask that you fully stop when letting your student off and not allow them to run across the street. Again, safety for all students is a top priority and the drop-off area is our first suggestion. Students will be engaged all day and will be dismissed at 2:47 pm from the gym. Staff will be available for questions and our goal is for you to hear all about our middle school from your student. Please have your student dress accordingly as it can be warm and bring a water bottle to hydrate.

We can't wait to meet the 6th grade students on Friday, August 19, 2016, starting at 7am.

Let us know if you have any questions prior to Transition Day.

Go T-Birds!