

Irons' Parent Newsletter August 2019

Welcome to Irons Junior High

I want to extend to you and your family a very warm welcome to Gerald D. Irons, Sr., Junior High School. The middle years are an exciting time when children embark upon new adventures in the world of learning. Each year will provide important transitions and the acquisition of new skills that will enhance each student's ability to apply learning in many ways. Irons Junior High is committed to providing a challenging and rigorous curriculum that helps each student progress at a developmentally appropriate rate and provides a safe environment for all students.

Irons Junior High is one of eleven schools, out of sixty-five schools in Conroe ISD, and the only school outside of The Woodlands Feeder Zone, to receive recognition as a Texas Honor School. Schools that appear on the Honor Roll have demonstrated consistently high levels of student achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. The Honor Roll program is part of a national effort to recognize successful educational systems and promote solutions that are shown to improve student outcomes.

We look forward to serving you and your child and continuing our journey to a "Commitment of Excellence".

Orientation Date for 2019-20 School Year

Irons Junior High will be hosting its annual orientation for the upcoming 2019-20 school year on Friday, August 2nd.

7th grade orientation will be from 8:30-11:30

8th grade orientation will be from 1:00-4:00

This day is provided to welcome and help acclimate our students to junior high. This is a day to get your child's locker, get their schedule, request books and meet some of the teachers. Please note that our teachers are still on vacation. Those that help with orientation are volunteering their time and many of them may not be available. We will follow up with a Meet the Teacher Night at a later date in order for you to meet your child's teacher.

Required Immunizations for Incoming Seventh Graders

If you are a parent or guardian of an incoming seventh grader of 2018-2019, please be aware Texas state law requires all students to have paperwork indicating receipt of the following immunizations before they can begin the first day of school:

TDAP and MCV

If your child does not have their immunizations before orientation, they *will not* receive their 2018-19 class schedule.

Importance of Attendance on the First Day - August 14th

For the state of Texas PEIMS accounting, it is important for students to be on campus the first day of school. If students are not present the first day of school, they are classified as inactive for the state reporting system and a parent/guardian must schedule an appointment to re-enroll.

Cars and Buses the First Week of School

Please note that the first week of school, and especially the first couple of days, buses may potentially be running later than usual due to heavy car line traffic and kindergarten parent pick up at drop off bus stops. Expect the car rider lines to be much longer the first two days as well.

Building Entry and Morning

The building will open for students at 8:15 a.m. Unless a student is in a specific school activity that begins prior to 8:15 a.m., they will not be allowed in the building. Please do not drop your son/daughter off prior to this time.

Detailed Bus Information

Bus numbers, routes, and approximate time for pick up and drop off will be available at www.conroeisd.net in early August. Please accurately follow the directions included at the website to ensure information is located for your child. Students who rode the bus in 2018-19 should be pre-enrolled. If your child is new to Irons or did not ride the bus in 2018-19 you will need to enroll him/her online so that the bus will pick him/her up. This process normally takes three days.

Athletic Physical Information

If your child is participating in athletics on campus next year, a properly completed doctor-signed physical is required before an athlete can begin participation in the organization. It is important to use the correct CISD physical form. Doctors' offices normally have a limited number of slots in their day to accommodate athletic physicals. Making an appointment early is recommended. When your child receives his/her athletic physical, please consider making a copy of the properly completed form for your records. Many camps and outside-of school organizations require them. Your child should turn the athletic physical form in directly to his/her coach when they receive equipment or tryout in the fall. To ensure this valuable document is not lost, have your child turn the form in directly to his/her coach.

KIDCHAT Anonymous Tipline 1-888-KIDCHAT

Our campus and district has an anonymous tip-line that can be accessed 24 hours a day by contacting 11-888-KIDCHAT. Information can be communicated at this site regarding activity that is illegal or inappropriate occurring both in the community or on a school campus. Students play a key role in helping keep the school and community safe. Reports are followed up by school administrators and/or police. In some cases, informants may qualify for a monetary reward for information leading to felony arrests.

InfoSnap: Change to Those First Day Forms Coming Home!

The Conroe Independent School District will return with the online student registration/data validation system for the upcoming school year, powered by InfoSnap. The system is a secure and green process, which allows the district to verify all student demographic, emergency and medical information for your child prior to the start of the new school year. Parents and guardians new to C.I.S.D. will need to enter information that we do not currently have in digital form, such as your student's Health Information form. This online process replaces all the hard copy student registration forms that your child brings home on the first day of school. When it is time to fill out the online form, you will receive an email from the Conroe Independent School District with instructions on how to access the system for your student. The email will contain a link and a secure

“snapcode” that links directly to your child’s information. You will create an account if new to the district, or log back into an existing account if you are a returning parent or guardian. To make the process easier for families with multiple children, you will have the option to copy all generic family information to all other students in your family. We would appreciate all families to take action and complete these forms as soon as possible after receiving the letter/email. Your child’s registration will not be complete until the forms have been submitted. If you do not have access to the Internet, computers are available on our campus to complete the forms.

Free Parent and Student Access Center

Parents and guardians have free access to Parent Access Center via www.conroeisd.net. This portal gives complete access to student grades, attendance, tardies, discipline, STAAR scores, and other information. This tool can also give parents/guardians the opportunity to set thresholds where you will be emailed scores of each assignment. Students also have the same access via Student Access Center.

Social Media Information All Parents/Guardians Need to Be Aware of to Help Ensure Children are Happy, Healthy, and Safe

The information below is very important if you are the parent or guardian of a child who has access to the internet via phone, your home, or at a friend’s house. Our goal is to help ensure all of our children are happy, healthy, and safe. The information below is being shared because social media pitfalls committed off campus are negatively overtaking the lives of our students, and much of what we do administratively each day on campus. We want to inform, help, and assist in preventing family stress as much as possible. Overall, the vast majority of our students do a great job of using social media each and every day at home or at school. It is a great way for students to stay connected and most handle it maturely and appropriately. Some students have a more difficult time using this mode of communication in a correct and legal way.

No school has control over student social media accounts or the internet. We have no ability to delete the social media accounts of individual students including their Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, Twitter, or any other platform. We can enact school consequences if an inappropriate posting occurs on campus. Depending on the situation, criminal charges may and have been filed by the county. If you believe threatening online postings have occurred, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department has jurisdiction.

Helping Your Child Make Good Decisions...The Danger of Making Threats as a Joke

In this day and age all threats should be, and are taken seriously. We follow up on every inappropriate communication whether it is verbal, online, written, or delivered by any other means. A great thing about our students is that they trust us and have a relationship with our staff that allows them to confidently communicate concerns. Our staff values that trust and takes it very seriously. At the outset of the year our staff meets with and explains in detail the dangers of making threats in any form, as well as the consequences for doing so. Most of the time young kids are trying to be funny. Please visit with your child to ensure he/she realizes in advance no one will think it is funny and no one will think it is a joke. The consequences, legally and from the school, are very high for making any type of threat.

Information Designed to Protect and Inform Use of Photo and Video in Areas of Which There is an Expectation of Privacy What Every Parent/Guardian and Student Needs to Know

Across the country the ubiquitous presence of smartphone technology in the hands of young people presents the opportunity for our students, your children, to suffer serious and potentially lifelong consequences as an offender and/or a victim. Issues associated with students taking/sending improper pictures or recordings continue to dominate both local, state, and national news. Our goal is to keep all students safe and free from harm caused by inappropriate phone/camera use. To protect your child, our campus strongly recommends that you, as a parent or guardian, share with your child the below information about several Texas laws that apply to this issue.

We will meet with students the first week of the new school year to cover a number of major issues, including these laws. Students who break the law are subject to prosecution and arrest by county authorities. Depending on the situation and place of occurrence, students are also subject to school consequences for inappropriate recordings or transmission of images.

INVASIVE VISUAL RECORDING

Photographing or videotaping another person in an area where the person being recorded expects privacy (like a bathroom or locker room) or, when a person electronically sends a photo or video that shows someone in an area that is expected to be private IS a crime. Nudity does not have to be depicted in the photo or video for this to be a crime. Texas Penal Code §21.15

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF CERTAIN VISUAL MATERIAL DEPICTING MINOR

Electronically sending pictures or video that shows minors in sexual conduct, including nudity, or being in possession of these material can be a criminal offense. Texas Penal Code §43.621

Vaping Awareness for Parents/Guardians

Nationally there has been a significant increase in “vaping” among teenagers. This terminology may also be known as e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are hand-held devices that heat liquid fused with nicotine or other liquids. Students across the country can, and are, vaping many different substances. Many of the devices used by teenagers to “vape” are not easily recognizable and appear as a normal writing pen or elongated USB thumb drive. In order to deceive parents/guardians, these devices which appear to be a regular USB thumb drive even light up when plugged into a USB receptacle. This also charges the battery used to heat the liquids. Among the most popular is a device known as a “JUUL” which harbors the liquid substance at the end. Teenagers find these devices attractive to use because the vapor emitted is hard to detect and generally they do not feel as if they are as harmful as traditional cigarettes. A recent study that came out in February of 2018 has found that the vapor of these devices contains lead and other metals dangerous to all, not just the user. Be aware these devices on campus have the same school-based consequences as regular cigarettes.

Can my child ride another bus or have a friend ride their bus home with them?

Only under extreme, last minute emergencies will a student be approved to ride a different bus other than the one assigned to that student. Spending the night with a friend does not constitute an emergency. It is impossible to efficiently utilize our buses when taking into account each and every child's outside school activity needs. Transportation is a privilege provided for each child from home to school and school to home or daycare. If you will be out of town and know in advance, or if your child needs to go to another child's home after school for any reason, parents should work out transportation issues together ahead of time. A parent will be required to pick up these students. If permission is granted for your child to ride another bus and all of the students assigned to that bus ride and there is no room left for extra passengers, only those students assigned to that bus will be

given transportation service. Even with permission for your child to ride another bus, you still may receive a call from the school requesting a parent to come and pick up a child due to the lack of seat availability. Permission will be granted only to the parent requesting a change in their child's transportation service. We cannot grant permission to the receiving parent for a change in another child's transportation service. Students must have a signed Transportation Emergency Request form signed by a campus administrator before the child will be allowed to ride the alternate bus to another student's home.

Cell Phones/electronic devices

Students are allowed to bring cell phones and other electronic devices to school as long as they are not on or seen once they enter the building at 8:15AM. Teachers and administrators meet with all students the first day of school to reiterate cell phone and electronic device policies and procedures. These items are brought at the student's own risk. Please visit with your child about the importance of keeping electronic devices secure and to never leave them at places such as the lunch table, locker room bench, etc. Unfortunately, cell phones and electronic devices are high theft items and someone will take them if left unattended. There are times when teachers will be using cell phones as instructional tools. Your child's teacher will have their own policy when such use occurs. Please note that it is not mandatory that you purchase a cell phone, contrary to your child's wishes, for these instructional purposes. Your child's teacher will have an alternative solution if he or she does not have a cell phone.

Student Dress Code

School is a place of business, and dress code regulations will provide appropriate standards for the general appearance of students. The following outline shall serve as a guide for junior high school students. However, "appropriateness of dress and appearance" will be determined by and enforced by all faculty and staff. Administrators have the final decision regarding the appropriateness of dress.

*Pants for boys and girls must be worn at the waist and should never expose the underwear, whether by accident or intent. Any student that is sagging will be sent to the Assistant Principals' office and will get his/her pants zip-tied if the student does not have a belt.

*No holes or tears are allowed in jeans that may expose inappropriate body parts.

*Hats or head covering may only be worn on special occasions which will be announced to all students prior to the event.

*Piercings are to be in the ears only.

*Shorts, dresses, and skirts must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.

*Spaghetti straps, small straps, racer back tank tops and halter tops are not allowed. The straps on any shirt can be no smaller than the width of two adult fingers. No cleavage should be seen.

*Leggings/Yoga Pants are allowed, but the shirt must be longer than your fingertips. NO EXCEPTIONS.

*Sheer shirts can only be worn if a school appropriate tank top is worn underneath.

*Sunglasses or shades are not to be worn on the students face or head while in the building.

*Students are not allowed to wear house shoes, slippers, or pajamas.

*Pants with words across the behind are not allowed.

*Dress code applies to all before/ after school functions.

*Traditional paisley bandanas cannot be worn as headbands regardless of the color

About Conroe Independent School District:

The Conroe Independent School District (District) is an equal opportunity educational provider and employer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment matters. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Board policy not to discriminate in such a manner.

Conroe ISD is committed to providing access to all individuals, including those with disabilities, seeking information on our website. If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader, eye tracking device, voice recognition software, etc.) and are experiencing difficulty accessing information on this site, please contact the Director of Communications at:

3205 W. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77304 (936) 709-7752 Information about the complaints and grievances process can be found here:
<http://www.conroeisd.net/departments/legal/public-complaints/>

