

January 7, 2008

Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe your children have but a few months left before their eighth grade graduation. There are many activities involved and the purpose of this letter is to give you as much information as possible about these upcoming events. As stated in our school handbook, **students not achieving a 1.25 grade point average will not be allowed to participate in any of the graduation activities.** Mr. Pierce has enclosed a letter defining the expectations for students during third and fourth quarters.

The main event, of course, is the graduation ceremony itself. This year graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 7PM in the main gym. Four tickets will be given out to each student closer to the actual date. Tickets will be collected at the door and extra tickets will not be available this year due to our large class size.

The graduation fee this year is \$80. This includes the cost of caps and gowns, graduation ribbon, class pin, executive diploma and the graduation trip to Great America. Students will wear caps and gowns for the graduation ceremony. Students were measured for their caps and gowns on Monday, December 17, 2007. They will also receive a ribbon, class pin, and executive diploma at graduation. This \$80 fee is due to their homeroom teachers by Friday, February 1, 2008. Checks need to be made payable to Arbor Park Middle School.

Enclosed in this packet is a form that needs to be completed with your child's name, exactly as you would like it printed on his or her diploma. Please return this form to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, February 1, 2008. A parent signature on this form is required.

We will be offering individual graduation photos this year. Pictures will be taken on Thursday, March 20, 2008. This is not a pre-paid photo session, proofs will be sent home at a later date with a brochure indicating purchasing information from Lifetouch Photography. No money is due until after you have previewed the proofs. Parents are in no way obligated to purchase any of the photos. This is just an optional program we decided to offer the families of our graduates.

Mr. Video Productions will videotape the graduation ceremony. The ceremony will be offered in DVD form only at the cost of \$30. Enclosed you will find an order form which must be **prepaid and sent directly to the company.**

The students will be going to Great America as their graduation trip. The date for this trip is Thursday, May 29, 2008. Any student not going on this trip is expected to attend school on this day. Snacks and meals in the park need to be purchased by the students. Students are encouraged not to bring any personal items of value, as there is nowhere to safely store them. The buses will be dropping the students off in the park in the morning and returning to school for their regular days bus routes. Buses will return later that day to pick up the students.

The eighth grade graduation dance will be held in the main gym on Friday, May 23, 2008 from 7 – 10PM. Thank you to our PTO who will be sponsoring this event. Students must be in attendance at school on the day of the dance. School is in session from 8AM till 11AM. All appointments must be made after 11AM. No exceptions will be made. Semi-formal or casual dress is appropriate for the dance. Ladies will not be allowed in with backless or strapless dresses. **Age appropriate clothing is required for the dance.** The dress code should be adhered to as previously agreed to in the school handbook. Tuxedos, limousines and formal gowns are not appropriate for this event. We want to emphasize that this is one of the last opportunities for the graduating class to gather together and socialize here at the Arbor Park Middle School. Gentlemen should be in dress pants and a shirt. Ties and jackets are optional. No jeans or gym shoes will be allowed. No student will be allowed to leave the building prior to 10PM. A parent will need to come into the building at 10PM to pick up their child. This dance is for Arbor Park graduates only.

Enclosed you will also find a copy of your child's medical record. This will be the only copy you will receive. The office is unable to get copies of this information during the summer months, as records are packed and sent to the local high schools. You may want to bring this to your child's doctor appointment prior to next fall. State law requires a new physical prior to entering ninth grade for all school students.

I realize this is a lot of information to take in all at once, but graduation is a hectic time for all of us. If you have any questions regarding any of the above information please give me a call at 708-687-5330.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Sexton  
Principal

Enclosures