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Aylin Rodriguez, *Principal*
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August 3, 2023

Dear New Students, Parents, and Guardians of School Without Walls:

Welcome! Few schools can match the quality of the education students receive at School Without Walls because it is different from every other school in the Rochester City School District. Our program is personalized, yet rigorous in terms of expectations regarding academic excellence, demonstrating appropriate conduct and respect, time management, following through on commitments, and attendance.

There will be a MANDATORY orientation meeting for all new students on August 22, 23, and 24, from 9:00-3:00 p.m. at School Without Walls. Parents/guardians are **REQUIRED** to attend on August 22 only to receive critical information including an overview of important SWW policies and procedures, a school tour and a discussion with staff. Please ensure that you are present.

The following are critical items that I wish to emphasize for all new students and their parents:

- All students use the RTS public bus system to get to and from school as well as to required school activities.
- Students have a full hour each day devoted to Personal Needs and Lunch. All students are provided with a free lunch. However, the “open campus” privilege will **not** be available to 9th grade students until the beginning of the second semester (February 1, 2024). This means that grade 9 students will **NOT** be allowed to leave campus.
- SWW does not give numeric or letter grades; instead, each student’s work is assessed using a progress evaluation rubric. The teacher also summarizes each student’s performance in a given course. Students will receive either a “pass” or “fail” upon course completion. You will be formally updated on your child’s performance every 5 weeks.
- Students must show maximum effort and complete all assignments and projects. If students do not complete assigned tasks, they will likely fail the course, not earn credit, and not be on track for a 4-year graduation.
- We are on a first-name basis at School Without Walls. However, this is not mandatory and is subject to change.
- We do not have a sports program. Students wishing to play sports or cheer attend an assigned comprehensive high school to join a team. That school is Edison Tech.
- We have a very stringent cell phone policy so our students can remain focused in school.
- Community service is a requirement. Each student must complete 75 hours per academic year.

Please consider setting aside time to participate in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and/or our School-Based Planning Team (SBPT). Parents’ voices are valued in our school community!

Again, I welcome you and your child to our family! We hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Sincerely,

Aylin Rodriguez