



Dear Dorothy Hamm Middle School students and families,

I hope your summer is off to an amazing start! This letter is just a quick update on what is happening at Dorothy Hamm this summer, as well as some ways to begin to prepare for the opening of school.

Building Updates:

As you know, this summer APS is focused on renovating the interior of our beautiful building. Now that HB Woodlawn has packed up, the contractors are focused on demolishing the spaces that will be reconfigured (Family and Consumer Sciences, Business Education, and Arts and Tech Education) as well as painting each classroom and public space and replacing all the lockers. There are many construction workers on site daily, and the progress is exciting! I will be posting pictures regularly on twitter – please check these out on the Dorothy Hamm Web Page: <https://dorothyhamm.apsva.us/>

Staffing:

The Dorothy Hamm staff is spending the summer recharging, learning at professional conferences and workshops and preparing for the new school year. As staff are finalized, we will be posting pictures and bios on the Dorothy Hamm web page. Look for these to be updated periodically over the summer.

Anticipating the School Year:

The school supply list is posted on the Dorothy Hamm Web Page. While this list is comprehensive, there may be a few specific content-related items that students are asked to purchase in the fall.

Math packets for students are linked here: <https://www.apsva.us/mathematics/summer-reviews/> Students should complete the math packet associated with the grade level they just finished, and bring the completed packet to their math teacher in the first week of school.

Students should be reading for pleasure at least 30 minutes every day during the summer. There is a great reading program through Arlington County Library that might provide extra motivation: <https://library.arlingtonva.us/explore/for-readers/summer-reading/>

Summer Save the Dates

On August 29th, we will welcome students and families to visit Dorothy Hamm Middle School, meet the staff, and get to know their TA Teacher. Please save this date – but, if you can't make this event don't worry, this information will be repeated the first week of school with students. Due to construction and time constraints, we are unable to schedule any individual orientations before school begins.

Sixth Grade – 8:00 am

Seventh Grade – 10:00 am

Eighth Grade – 1:00 pm

Orientation will begin with a brief introduction of staff in the auditorium and then families will move to their student's TA/Homeroom. You will receive a letter from me in mid-August with more specific details, your TA teacher, and room number.

Our PTSA has planned many fun opportunities for students and families to get acquainted. Please follow the DHMS PTSA on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252586794927556/>) for upcoming dates, and join in!

I am so looking forward to meeting our new DHMS Phoenix students. Have a wonderful summer.

Best, Ellen

Ellen Y. Smith

Principal, Dorothy Hamm Middle School