

# Welcome to the Mercury Team

2010-2011

## Who is the Mercury Team?

The teachers on the Mercury Team are:

Math	Language Arts	Science	Social Studies	Homeroom Teachers
Mrs. Pearson Ms. Larsen Mr. Drygas	Mrs. Pearson Mr. DiGregorio Ms. Cavallini	Mrs. Huppman	Mr. Snyder	Ms. Koszarek

Also working with some Mercury Team students are Mrs. Goodwin (for science), Ms. Reidenauer (for social studies), Ms. Hassinger (for reading), and Ms. Koszarek (for Humanities).

## What is the schedule?

To begin, there are eight periods (4 blocks) per day. The students begin each day in homeroom at 8:00 am. Attendance will be taken, absence notes collected, and announcements viewed on television. Students are considered late to school **if not in homeroom at 8:00 am. Should a student arrive after 8:15 am**, the student must report to the main office.

Students may go to their lockers before 8:00 am, before TEP, before lunch, after lunch, and at the end of the school day. The students will not be permitted to go to their lockers between periods without a pass from their teacher.

The core subjects, math, language arts, science and social studies, are offered in 80 minute blocks for either the entire year or for one semester.

Math	Language Arts	Science / Social Studies
80 minutes each day entire year	80 minutes each day entire year	80 minutes each day One semester each

Students will also have one block each day to attend classes in the arts and technology and physical and health education.

<b>Health / Art</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Technology</b>
80 minutes / one day a week for one semester	80 minutes / one day a week for entire year	40 minutes / one day a week for entire year	2 – 80 minute blocks, plus 1 - 40 minute class for nine weeks
		General music Choral music Band	Communications Multimedia Career Technology 4 <sup>th</sup> Marking period – I Search culmination project

Team Enrichment Period (TEP) is for 40 minutes at the end of the fourth period. During this time, students have an opportunity to participate in organized school activities such as:

Band                      Chorus                      Cheerleading                      Bandfront

For students not required to attend TEP activities, TEP is a silent study period in which students may do homework, journal writing, reading, make up absent work, receive help from their teachers, go to the library, etc. Students may bring a healthy snack and/or water to eat at TEP since they have the last lunch of the day (see below).

The Mercury Lunch period is at 12:55 pm each day. Lunch is only 30 minutes, so the students need to budget their time. (NOTE: Breakfast is also available in the morning)

### **Absence and Late Notes**

If a student is absent from or late to school, he/she should bring a note within one week. The note should include:

- Student’s name
- Reason for absence / lateness
- Dates of absence
- Parent signature

If a student does not turn in a note for an absence or lateness within one week of their return to school, then a detention may be issued.

If it is known that a student will be absent on a particular day, the parent can call and leave a message by dialing 610-237-8034 and follow the directions to reach the middle school, and its voice mailbox for attendance. However, a note is still required.

### **Lavatory, Drink, and Nurse Procedures**

Due to the fact that students are given five minutes between classes, it is their responsibility to use the lavatory and drinking fountain at that time. In case they are feeling ill, the teacher will sign the hallway pass portion of the student’s planner and they will be allowed to visit the nurse. These emergency situations should not be abused, or the privileges will be limited.

## Zero-Tolerance Policy Regarding Late Homework

In order to provide a consistent policy regarding late homework, the teachers of the Mercury Team follow the Ridley Middle School policy for Homework as stated in the student planner:

**No late assignments will be accepted.**

This policy does not apply to assignments missed due to an absence. Students who are absent must see the teacher to obtain the missed work and will be given enough time to complete the work.

The Mercury Team teachers offer homework assistance for students who are in need of extra help, or who have fallen behind in a subject. Teachers are available Monday through Thursday at 2:50 PM. Students may also seek a teacher's help during TEP time. Students are welcome to attend voluntarily. They need only make the teacher and parent aware of their decision.

## Homework Hotline

The Homework Hotline will allow parents and students to hear the homework that has been assigned. It is updated daily. The phone number is 610-237-8034, press 3 and the extension is 1478.

## Grading Policy, Progress Reports, Report Cards, and Promotion

Parents are kept informed of their child's progress through the use of the PowerSchool online grading system. This powerful tool allows the parent to see the assignment grades and the current marking period grade for each subject. Graded assignments are returned to all students, so if questions arise about why an assignment earned a particular grade, please check the binder for that subject.

Progress Reports and Report Cards will be available on Power School. Report Cards will also be sent home to be reviewed and signed. If you do not have Internet access, please contact the guidance secretary at 610-237-8034 ext 1322 for assistance.

Progress Reports:      October 1, December 10, February 18, May 6  
Report Cards:          November 12, January 28, April 8, June 24

In order for a student to be promoted to the next grade, the student must pass **all** subjects, including practical arts, physical education, health, art, etc.

The grading scale is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical equivalent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical equivalent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical equivalent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical equivalent</u>
A+	98 - 100	B+	89 - 91	C+	80 - 82	D+	71 - 73
A	95 - 97	B	86 - 88	C	77 - 79	D	68 - 70
A-	92 - 94	B-	83 - 85	C-	74 - 76	D-	65 - 67
						F	64 and below

## Mercury Team's Field Trip Policy

Field trips are used as an enrichment and reward to your child's academic experience. It is a privilege to be able to attend a field trip with the team. The Mercury Team has planned a number of field trips for the school year. In order to qualify, a student must meet with following criteria.

Criteria	All other field trips	Hershey Park
<b>Time Out</b>	The student can not be sent to time out more than 3 times since the previous field trip	The student can not be sent to time out more than 3 times after January 1, 2011
<b>Suspensions</b>	Any student who receives a full day suspension (ISS or OSS) since the previous field trip cannot attend.	Any student who receives a full day suspension (ISS or OSS) after January 1, 2011 cannot attend.
<b>Academic Eligibility</b>	Students must be academically eligible, 1 week prior to the field trip. Meaning they must be passing all core subjects with a 65% or better.	Students must be academically eligible, 1 week prior to the field trip. Meaning they must be passing all core subjects with a 65% or better.
<b>Absences</b>	The student can not be absent for more than 10 unexcused absences (i.e. absences for which no note has been turned in to the homeroom teacher)	
<b>Misconduct on a field trip</b>	A serious infraction during a prior field trip will eliminate a student from attending the next field trip.	

Date	Destination	Chaperones Needed	Estimated Cost
Fall (tentatively 10/29/10)	Independence Park	Yes	\$6 - \$10
Winter (tentatively 12/22/10)	Bowling	No	\$10 - \$15
Spring	TBA	TBA	TBA
6 dates in mid-May	Philadelphia Museum of Art	No	\$12 - \$15
Late May	Hershey Park	Yes	\$65 - \$75

The cost of field trips includes the admission (if required) to the venue, the hourly rate for each driver for each hour of the trip, a per mile cost, and any parking fees for the bus. Payment plans are available for each field trip. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher so that we may accommodate any situations that arise.

**Please Note: Since all trips are pre-paid, we cannot offer a refund or a credit if your child is absent the day of the trip.**

## Summary

We hope the information we have provided will help us work together to make your child's school experience this year a pleasant and successful one. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Mercury Team teachers or Mr. DiGregorio, the Mercury Team leader at 610-237-8034.

## **Student and Parent Acknowledgement of the Mercury Team's Policies and Procedures**

Please return this page to your child's homeroom teacher by \_\_\_\_\_.

We acknowledge that we have read through the Mercury Team's Policies and Procedures. We understand that all policies will be enforced through the entire school year.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_