



**J. Sterling
Morton
Elementary**

Morton Messenger

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Issue 44



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News from the Principal...



We kicked off the 2016-2017 school year meeting our students and families on the lawn at Morton. Special thanks go to Maya Bredenkamp and Erin Dahms for sharing their talent (behind the camera) with us! Enjoy the beautiful snapshots!!! Welcome Back! This is going to be an amazing year together!
~All Things Morton

The **Morton Messenger** is an important communication tool (it is where we put all the "good stuff") so please take a few minutes to read through it each week. The Morton Messenger will be sent to you weekly via email and is posted on the Morton webpage. **If you would like a paper copy of our newsletter, please notify Mrs. Bergstrom in writing.** Because this is our first newsletter of the year, we are sending a paper copy home with every student today.

The Mission of J. Sterling Morton Elementary School, whose culture unites families, guarantees all students develop and excel in academic skills and character necessary for personal excellence and responsible citizenship through high-quality, engaging experiences in an academic, challenging and nurturing environment.

Last year Millard Public Schools implemented a new structure, Standard Response Protocol (SRP), for student and staff protection. Please understand our need for these procedures and that we work hard to find the balance between being safe and still welcoming and friendly. We believe we can be both. For example, if a conference is needed with a staff member, please use email or the telephone to set up an appointment in advance. This is not only done for safety, but also so the teachers can teach without interruption. Teachers are sharing a PowerPoint presentation with all students (k-5) today. Please review the important SRP poster as well as the letter from Bill Jelkin, Director of Student Services to learn more.

Speaking of safety, here are a few (important) **traffic reminders**: please...
do not park on the curve in front of the school for any reason or at any time;
do not turn left into Morton (from the street);
do not abandon your car in the driveway—you are invited to use the parking lots on the north and south sides of the building and walk to the front door;
follow the vehicle in front of you; do not "go around" cars in the driveway; and
please do not block neighborhood driveways or mailboxes.
We appreciate your partnership and your patience as we make certain our campus is safe for students and staff.

To help with the flow of traffic...

1. at arrival...once you are curb-side on the driveway, please have your child exit the car and walk to the front door...this will allow us to move about 8 vehicles at a time through the driveway; and
the driveway is not the place for long good-byes, eating breakfast, texting, etc. -
please use the parking lots on the north and side sides of the building if you need that extra time.

Just a quick reminder...

Tennis shoes are required for PE classes. If you need assistance with the purchase of tennis shoes for your child(ren), please contact Mrs. Bergstrom (jkbergstrom@mpsomaha.org) or 402 715-1290.

Guests are welcome at Morton for lunch! Please help us keep routines and by following these few rules:

Sign in at the office (if you want to eat school lunch, order by 9 am; if you want to bring lunch in from home or a local restaurant, that's fine too!)

If someone other than a parent is coming for lunch (grandpa, auntie, older sibling, etc.), we need a call from a parent (402 715-1290).

We have a peanut-safe table in the lunchroom. For the safety of our students, no peanuts or nut-products can be consumed at this table.

Students and their guests will sit with the class.

Lunch and treats during lunch should only be purchased and given to your own child (ren). Please don't bring "goodies" to share with others.

Cell phones should not be in use at school. No pictures, videos, etc., please.

We are searching for donations of **hand sanitizer** to help fight colds, flu and the spread of germs at Morton. If you would like to make a donation, please bring bottles of hand sanitizer to Morton and help us "fill the bucket" (located in the lobby). Thank you!