July 2018

Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year at Sidener Academy!

At Sidener Academy, our dedicated staff is committed to meeting the unique academic, social, and emotional needs of ALL high ability students. They meet those needs through a differentiated curriculum that allows students to learn how they learn best while giving the students the opportunity of exploring individual interests.

The Sidener staff recognizes that this year of school is a critical component of a student’s ultimate educational achievement. Part of the wonder and awe of the beginning of a new school year is the sense of anticipation, abundance, and excitement as scholars return to meet new educators, foster additional relationships, and experience unique learning opportunities. The Sidener Academy Staff looks forward to sharing these events with our students.

At Sidener Academy, like other great schools, decisions are based on what is best for our students. This effort will enable students to personally reflect on their learning while developing the skills to work both independently and cooperatively to solve complex, real-world problems, develop high-level academic and personal skills, and cultivate inquiring minds.

Sidener’s staff of dedicated and talented teachers and student support staff collaborate as a team in planning for each child. The excellence of our elementary and middle school programs is in a large measure due to the unique educational aptitudes and instructional methods utilized by our committed professional staff.

Parental involvement at Sidener Academy is encouraged by offering varied opportunities for parents and community members to participate in the lives of our students. When parents are active partners with the school, students demonstrate positive attitudes toward the school and community. These advantages include higher levels of academic achievement, positive attitudes toward school and community, and greater maturity and personal responsibility. Because the benefits are so solid, we urge each parent to participate as much as possible in the life of our school.

In closing, the Sidener staff is committed to make this the best school year possible for ALL students. We take great pride in giving our best to your best. Let’s make this year’s educational journey memorable and gratifying for students, parents, and staff.

Sincerely,

troy a. nolan-watkins

Troy A. Nolan-Watkins, Proud Principal
Sidener Academy for High Ability Students
General Reminders:

Sidener Academy will host two events prior to the start of the new school year.

**Wednesday, August 1, 2018**

**New Parent Orientation**

6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Sidener Cafeteria – This is designed for families new to Sidener Academy. Representatives from the Sidener Staff and PTA will be available to answer questions and to familiarize families with Sidener Academy traditions and procedures.

**Friday, August 3, 2018**

**Back-to-School Social**

6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Teachers will be available to meet students and parents in the Sidener Cafeteria and playground. Parents may visit classrooms at 7:00 p.m. so that the students know the location of their new homeroom.

Sidener Academy School Hours for Students: 9:20 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

We ask that students arrive at school at 9:00 a.m. At that time, Sidener staff will assist students safely into the building. Buses unload at approximately 9:05 a.m. All students will report to the Sidener Cafeteria for breakfast or to the classroom to begin the school day. **Our expectation is for classes to begin promptly at 9:20 a.m.**

Students are considered tardy at 9:20 a.m. Tardy students are expected to get a tardy pass in the main office.

Immunizations (Special Note for parents of 6th grade students)

According to Indiana law, students are not permitted to attend school without proof of proper immunization. Please check with the main office if you have any doubts about your child’s immunizations being up to date or that we have an official record on file indicating same. If your child does not receive immunizations due to medical concerns, we request a doctor’s statement. If your child does not receive immunizations due to religious reasons, a written statement must be submitted to the principal each school year.

- **DTP** – 4 doses are acceptable only if 4th dose was administrated after child 4th birthday.
- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella** are the same as MMR on immunization record.
- **Varicella (chickenpox vaccine)** – Grades 6-12 must have two doses or history of disease.
- **Tdap** – 1 dose given on or after age 10.
- **For 6th Grade Students** - Meningitis – Grades 6-12 must have 1 dose of vaccine.

We are asking for documentation from your medical provider be returned to the Sidener main office by September 7, 2018.

Car Rider Times

**Drop-Off:** 9:05 a.m.  
**Pick-Up:** 4:15 p.m.

Please follow the directions and instructions from the Sidener staff that supervise and monitor this area both in the morning and at dismissal. Students being picked up after 4:25 p.m. must be signed out in the main office.

Elementary Students (grades 2-5) are expected enter at “Door 10” at the end of the elementary hallway. Middle School Students (grades 6-8) are expected to use “Door 3” at the end of the Middle School hall. Students being dropped off are not expected to use the main school doors during the morning arrival.

The mission of Sidener Academy is to serve the unique academic, social, and emotional needs of high ability students from diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Within our learning community, we are empowered to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens in a positive and supportive atmosphere.