

September 10, 2007



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have not had the pleasure of meeting most of you yet, so let me begin with an introduction. My name is Coley Lehman. I have worked in education as a teacher and curriculum developer for nine years. This is my first year teaching at SEI Academy and I am very excited!

Social Studies is an integral part of your child's education. As the saying goes, "You have to know where you came from before you know where you are going." In my class, students will study geography, culture, history, and current events. They will build critical thinking skills as they investigate these topics.

The African proverb, "It take a village to raise a child" applies to education as well. We must work together to help your child achieve her or his potential. Middle school is an important time in your child's education. It is imperative to help your child develop good study habits. These skills are important for academic success in middle school, high school, and college.

Get involved in your child's homework! Make sure you provide a quiet time and space for your child to complete homework. Review homework assignments with your child. Ask them to explain the assignment and how it relates to what they are learning in class.

SEI Academy is committed to literacy across all subject areas. Reading is just like any other skill, it takes practice. Your child should read at least 30 minutes every night. Grab a book and read together! Plan regular visits to the library. There are two branches close to SEI Academy.

North Portland Library
512 N. Killingsworth St.
Portland, OR 97217
503.988.5394

Albina Library
3605 N.E. 15th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212
503.988.5362

It is important that your child come to school well rested and nourished. Adolescents need between 9 and 10 hours of sleep each night; set and enforce a regular bedtime for your child. The SEI Academy cafeteria provides affordable, nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch. Please make sure you complete an application if your child qualifies for free or reduced priced meals. Students who are sleepy or hungry cannot learn!

Middle school can be a challenging time for students. Research shows that children who spend quality time with their parents or guardians each day are more likely to succeed. Take some time each day to ask your child about school, friends, etc. Those 10 minutes each day can make the difference!

Developing your child's interests is also very important during the middle school years. There are a lot of great things to do in Portland. Take advantage of the abundance of public parks. Many of the museums offer students prices and most of the sports teams offer special tickets for students. Portland has a wealth of opportunities for youth. Give your child opportunities to experience a wide variety of activities. Of course, SEI is an incredible resource for interesting things to do!

By **Monday, Sept. 17, 2007** your child should come to school each day with the following items:

- Blue or black pens (at least 3)
- Notebook or binder with a section for Social Studies
- Folder

Optional items:

- Crayons or markers (one box)
- Pencil case
- Lined notebook paper (one package)

Wish list for the classroom:

- Box of tissues
- Paper towels
- Construction paper or lined paper
- Appropriate magazines or books for classroom library
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Your time as a volunteer

If you have financial concerns regarding any of these items, please contact me ASAP.

I am looking forward to a great year! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Good communication between teachers and parents or guardians helps children succeed. Please read through my information packet with your child and keep it for future reference. Detach and sign the policy checklist. Your child must return this form by **Monday, September 17, 2007**. I look forward to meeting all of you soon. Please feel free to contact me via phone or email with any questions or concerns. I am also available for appointments before or after school.

Sincerely,

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