

# WILLIAM S. COHEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Friends of the William S. Cohen School:

I hope that this first newsletter finds you and your families well rested and eagerly anticipating the exciting opportunities that lie ahead of the next school year. The up-coming year offers rich and rewarding experiences for all of our students, parents, and staff. This year, the school calendar allows for three storm days. **The first student day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st.**

Very soon, the Cohen School will open its doors to approximately 400 enthusiastic middle school youngsters. They will be greeted by a competent, caring staff, committed to assessing each child's educational needs in order to provide a program specifically tailored to best accelerate their learning.

In addition to the rigorous course offerings, there is an extensive after school activity program available to all students. Dozens of activities are offered throughout the school year, supervised by the Cohen School staff. These experiences provide students with the opportunity to remain in a supervised activity after the regular school day, to interact with teachers and peers outside of the classroom, and to be active school citizens in whatever areas they may choose.

The Cohen School staff eagerly accepts the challenge and responsibility of guiding our students through these important, formative years in school. At the same time, we realize the critical role that parents play in their development. The statewide reputation that the Cohen School has for educational excellence is due, in large part, to the high expectations that teacher's and parents have for our students. We sincerely welcome your input and your cooperation. Together, we face no greater task than to provide the best education possible for our young people, so they may realize their greatest potential.

This information in this newsletter will hopefully assist in answering some of the more common questions regarding school start up procedures as well as the dates of upcoming events. **All monthly newsletters will appear on our website which can be found on the internet at <http://www.bangorschools.net>.**



## OPEN HOUSE

We will be having an Open House on **Thursday, September 3, 2009, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

All classrooms will be open, and staff members will be here to meet parents. This is not a time

for parents to meet individually with teachers about concerns they have about their child. If you have questions or concerns, please arrange for an individual conference at an alternate time.

## SCHOOL DAY

The William S. Cohen School will welcome students on Tuesday, September 1st. Doors will open at 8:10 a.m. And school adjourns at 2:30 p.m. Our multi-faceted After School Activity Program runs from **2:30 to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.** A late bus will be available to transport bus students at the conclusion of this program. Students receive information daily regarding programs over the school intercom.



## Lockers

Homeroom teachers will assign each student a locker to use for the school year. Students are responsible for their own locker and are strongly encouraged not to share their combination with anyone. Please keep lockers closed and locked at all times. Student lockers are the property of the school and may be searched at any time. Book bags should be small enough to fit into the school locker since students are not allowed to carry book bags during the school day due to safety concerns in our hallways, computer labs, cafeteria, library, and classrooms. **Students bringing cell phones to school are required to turn them off and store them in their locker during the school day.** (Personal locks are not allowed on school lockers.)

## Book Bags

Students who choose to use book bags should plan to leave them in their lockers throughout the school day. When purchasing a book bag, this should be taken into consideration. Book bags left in aisles in classrooms, science labs, computer labs, and the library, disrupt walkways, and often times trip students and staff members. With four hundred students in the corridors as classes pass, book bags add unnecessary congestion problems.



## Student Handbooks

Each student at the William S. Cohen School will receive a Student Handbook on the first day of year's hand- inside the (Calendar/ which will all students This hand- information



school rules, policies and programs. It is the students' responsibility to become familiar with the information in this handbook so parents and teachers are encouraged to review the information contained in the handbook with students. The Student Handbook can be found on the BangorSchools.net website.

book on the school. This book is printed Agenda Book Organizer) be supplied to again this year. book contains specific to

## A.M. MUSIC

Band, orchestra and chorus will be offered from 7:20 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. Orchestra meets on Wednesday & Friday. Chorus meets on Monday & Wednesday. Band meets Tuesday and Thursday. Information regarding these programs will be forthcoming during the first week of school. The A.M. music programs are scheduled to begin the week of September 7th.



## Attendance & Tardiness

**Regular attendance at school is essential for a student to achieve success and to derive the greatest benefit from the school experience.**



State law also requires regular attendance. When students are absent from school, we request that parents call the school prior to 9:00 a.m. Students to be dismissed from school must receive permission and sign out in the office. A note or phone call in advance is required from parents in order for a student to be dismissed.

## Student Breakfast & Lunch Programs

The William S. Cohen School offers a breakfast and lunch program to all students. An application for free/reduced meal prices will be distributed to students on the first day of school. If you wish to apply for free or reduced meal prices, please complete the application and return it to the school as soon as possible. Applications are available in the main office at all times throughout the school year. An A La Carte program is also available for students who wish to pay for individual food items during lunch. Students who wish to bring their own lunch may purchase milk. The following are prices for the school year: Full lunch \$2.15, Reduced lunch \$.40, Full breakfast \$1.00, Reduced breakfast is free this year.

## Report Cards

Report cards for this year will be issued to students according to the following schedule:



1st Quarter	No later than	November 16th
2nd Quarter	No later than	February 1st
3rd Quarter	No later than	April 12th
4th Quarter	No later than	*June 28th

\*The final report card will be sent home through the mail.



## Homework

Homework is an important and necessary part of each student's education. Although the amount and type of homework will vary from class to class, **it is essential for all students to spend time each evening on schoolwork. This includes written work, as well as study time.** The Bangor School Department has established the following guideline for daily homework at the middle level. **\*\*\*30 to 90 minutes each evening\*\*\***

## Make-Ups & Incompletes

Students may make-up work missed due to excusable absence or suspension. All efforts should be made by the teacher and student to arrange mutually convenient times for make-up. **The period from 2:30—3:00 p.m. daily is reserved for make-up.** Make-up work, due to excused absence or suspension, should be completed within one week exclusive of holidays or vacations from return to school if the absence was five days or less or within two weeks if the absence was more than 5 days. The Principal may make exceptions. When incompletes are issued, the teacher must change the incomplete to a grade in the guidance office by the end of two weeks from the close of grades. The Principal may make exceptions. No incompletes will be issued for the last rank card unless arrangements have been made and approved by the Principal.

## Parent Conferences

Parents may make appointments to meet with staff at any time during the school year by calling for an appointment. Scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held October 13th & 14th.



## Student Dress Code



Students at William S. Cohen School are expected to take pride in their appearance. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's dress for school. **Daily dress should be appropriate to promote a positive school environment and so students should not wear clothing that distracts from the learning environment.** While the school will not prescribe clothing styles, students are expected to exercise good taste and good judgment in their personal grooming and dress. Clothing

items that promote or display cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, nudity, profanity, or phrases that are offensive are not acceptable. As a guide, bare midriffs, bare feet, uncovered undergarments, chains, hats and head gear, and coats and jackets are not appropriate to be worn in school. Students inappropriately dressed will be asked to change.

## PAPERWORK NEEDED FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES



Before students can participate in any interscholastic practices or games, they must have filled out and returned the following documents:

1. Health Examination for Interscholastic Sports (Form F—green form): This physical examination form must be completed by the child's physician. This form must be done once while the child is a student of the Cohen School. One completed form covers the child for the three years he/she is a student there.
2. Form P—yellow form: This parent permission form giving students parent permission to participate in athletics is filled out once a year. The form covers the student for all sports that year. Parents must provide insurance information and emergency contact information. The forms are available at WSCS or on-line at Bangorschools.net.

## Math and Reading Extension Courses

The Federal No Child Left Behind Act’s major goal is to improve student achievement across the nation. It mandates that public schools raise the educational performance of all children. The new Elementary and Secondary Education Act puts more pressure on the public education system to increase student performance for all students.

The William S. Cohen School has identified goals, action strategies, and a professional development program as part of its school improvement plan to meet this challenge. During the initial years of implementation, greater numbers of students have shown proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science as demonstrated by meeting or exceeding the standards on the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA). Our task is to continue our efforts to assist all students in meeting these expectations. A major intervention this year are two courses called Reading Extensions and Math Extensions. Based upon a review of past performance, some students will be scheduled into one or both of these classes. Students registered for these classes will be scheduled with a teacher for instruction one day a week for reading and/or one day a week for math in lieu of a study hall.



We are excited about offering this intervention and the impact that it could have on assisting more students to move into the “Meets the Standard” category of the Maine Educational Assessment. In essence these students will be scheduled for 36 additional periods of small group instruction per year in reading and/or 36 additional periods of small group instruction per year in math targeting areas to help them better meet the Maine Learning Results through successful participation in the MEA. These exams are scheduled for all of our students in March this year.

Should your child be scheduled into the math extension or reading extension classes and you have questions, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher, the Guidance Counselor or the Principal.



## Mark Your Calendar



SEPTEMBER 1ST	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	OCTOBER 12TH	NO SCHOOL—COLUMBUS DAY
SEPTEMBER 3RD	OPEN HOUSE	OCTOBER 13TH/14TH	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
SEPTEMBER 21ST	SCHOOL PHOTOS		

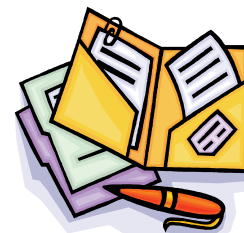
### School Photos

Mark your calendar—School photos will be taken on **Monday, September 21, 2009.**



### Student First Day Packets

Each student will receive from their home room teachers a “FIRST DAY PACKET”. This packet will contain important information that needs to be filled out by the students parent/guardian and returned to the home room teacher immediately. This will allow the Main Office to have current information on each student.



# Sports Center



## CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE 2009



				Run Time:	Departure Time:
September 17th	@	All Saints	B/G	4:15	Bus 3:00
September 24th	@	Central	G/B	4:15	Bus 2:45
October 1st	@	Sedomocha	B/G	4:15	Bus 2:30, Dismissal 2:20
October 8th		Home	G/B	4:15	Bus 3:00
October 15	@	Bucksport	B/G	4:15	Bus 2:45
October 21	@	Lincoln	G/B	4:15	Bus 2:30, Dismissal 2:20

\*\*\*All schedules are subject to change—Please check the website for updates and changes on schedules.  
WWW.bangorschools.net.\*\*\*



## 8th GRADE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2009



			Game Time:	Departure Time:
September 8th	vs.	Lincoln	5:00	3:30
September 15th	vs.	Newport	5:00	3:30
September 22nd	vs.	Rockland	5:00	3:30
September 30th	@	Acadia/MDI	4:30	2:45
October 6th	vs.	Hampden	5:00	3:30
October 14th	@	Camden	5:00	2:30
October 21st	@	Brewer	3:00	1:45

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## FIELD HOCKEY SCHEDULE 2009



9/14	A/B vs. JFDS	3:30		10/05	A/B vs. Orono	3:15
9/16	B/A @ Lincoln	3:30	Dis. 1:30, Bus 1:40	10/08	B/A @ Brewer	3:00 Dis. 2:15, Bus 2:30
9/21	A/B vs. Brewer	3:30		10/09	A/B vs. Lincoln	3:30
9/23	B/A vs. Hampden	3:30		10/15	A/B vs. Old Town	3:00
9/28	B/A @ Old Town	3:30	Bus 2:40	10/16	B/A @ JFDS	3:00
9/29	A/B @ Orono	3:30	Bus 2:40			
10/01	A/B @ Hampden	3:00	Dis. 2:15, Bus 2:30			

**\*All games start at 3:30 unless noted.      \*\*All schedules are subject to change.**

## SOCCER SCHEDULE 2009

9/11	B/A Girls vs. Old Town B/A Boys @ Old Town	3:30 3:30, Bus 2:45		10/15	A/B Boys vs. Old Town A/B Girls @ Old Town	3:00 3:00, Dis. 1:50 Bus 2:00
9/14	B/A Girls vs. JFDS B/A Boys @ JFDS	3:30 3:30, Bus 2:45		10/16	B/A Boys vs. JFDS B/A Girls @ JFDS	3:00 3:00, Dis. 2:15, Bus 2:30
9/16	G/B B vs. Lincoln	3:30				
9/18	A Boys vs. Bucksport B/A Girls @ Bucksport	3:30 3:30, Dis. 1:50, Bus 2:00				
9/21	G/B A vs. Brewer	3:30				
9/22	B/G B @ Orono	3:30, Bus 2:45				
9/23	G/B B vs. Hampden G/B A @ Hampden	3:30 3:30, Bus 2:45				
9/25	B/G A vs. Ellsworth B/G B @ Ellsworth	3:30 3:30, Dis. 1:50, Bus 2:00				
9/29	A/B Girls vs. Bucksport A Boys @ Bucksport	3:30 3:30, Dis. 2:00, Bus 2:10				
10/01	B/G A vs. Hampden B/G B @ Hampden	3:00 3:00, Dis. 2:15, Bus 2:30				
10/02	G/B B vs. Orono	3:15				
10/06	G/B B vs. Ellsworth G/B A @ Ellsworth	3:00 3:00, Dis. 1:42, Bus 1:55				
10/08	B/G A @ Brewer	3:00, Dis. 2:15, Bus 2:30				
10/09	G/B B @ Lincoln	3:30, Dis. 1:30, Bus 1:40				



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**\*\*\*All schedules are subject to change—**

**Please check the website for updates and changes on the website:**

**[www.bangorschools.net](http://www.bangorschools.net)**

## ***WSCS SCHOOL BEHAVIOR CODE***

- 1. Students should walk to the right in an orderly manner and arrive promptly to class with all appropriate materials.***
- 2. Students should use moderate tones of voice, as well as acceptable and appropriate language and gestures.***
- 3. Students should show courtesy to all others, and respect for all property.***
- 4. Students should keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves.***
- 5. Students should follow instructions from all staff members promptly and courteously.***
- 6. Students should have a written pass from a staff member when outside a classroom during class time.***
- 7. Students inside the building before 8:10 a.m. or after 2:45 p.m. shall be in an activity supervised by a staff member, or have a valid hall pass.***