

May 31, 2019

Future 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming your 6th graders to Anacortes Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year! One of the exciting things we have in store for this group of 6th graders is a trip to Camp Orkila, located on Orcas Island on Sept 18-20, 2019. This is only TWO WEEKS from the start of school! Camp is a great opportunity for students and staff to come together, get to know one another, and build lasting bonds for the remainder of the school year and beyond. While at camp, students will participate in outdoor education activities that encourage them to challenge themselves, push past fears, establish new friendships, and work together - all while learning about and enjoying nature.

The cost of sending an entire class of 6th graders to Camp Orkila is quite high. Therefore, it is necessary that we ask families to pay some of the cost. This year, the cost for students could be as much as \$100. This amount could change if we get additional donations or outside funding. To ease the burden on families, AMS has set up an account for each student so that you can make smaller payments toward the balance between now and Sept 11, or pay the entire cost at one time, whichever option is most convenient for your family. **Please note that the AMS office will be closed from approximately 6/28/19 to 8/12/19.** No child will be denied the opportunity to attend camp due to financial constraints. If you are unable to afford the fee, call the AMS main office at (360)503-1230 or email Aimee Rudge at arudge@asd103.org and let us know the portion of the cost that you are able to pay, and your child will receive a scholarship for the remaining amount.

In order to make camp a success, we need many parent chaperones to join us. Chaperone duties include supporting and assisting camp staff during daytime activities, supervising mealtimes and recreation times, and monitoring students in cabins at night. In addition, some of the chaperones will be asked to drive their vehicles to camp to haul luggage and sleeping bags. Chaperones will need to pay \$155 to attend camp, which is the cost AMS is charged by Camp Orkila. If you are interested in chaperoning our trip, please send an email to Abby Biederman at abiederman@asd103.org as soon as possible even if you are not positive you can attend. In addition, you will be required to fill out a volunteer form with the district well in advance of our trip. See the district website for more information about volunteering or contact Connie Sheridan at csheridan@asd103.org.

This year, AMS will have links on our school website containing all the forms that will need to be filled out in order for students and chaperones to attend camp. Some of the information is already on the website, but more may become available, so please check <http://ams.asd103.org> throughout the summer and complete the required forms as soon as they become available. If your child will need to take ANY medication at camp (prescription or over-the-counter), please contact Nurse Emily Wade at ewade@asd103.org right away to make arrangements. Again, we have only two weeks from the beginning of school until we leave for camp. ***Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the paperwork.***

Included in this communication is a packing list for camp. It is our hope that by providing it to you early, you will be able to obtain all the necessary items by going through what you have at home, borrowing from a friend, or maybe buying a used item to get them through their time at camp. It is not necessary to go out and buy new or expensive times for Camp Orkila.

Please direct any questions regarding Camp Orkila to Abby Biederman at abiederman@asd103.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. Harrington, Mr. Pike, and Sixth Grade Teachers

