

A Message from the Principals

Welcome to Seoul American Middle School (SAMS) Open House. Thank you for taking the time to meet the teachers. PTO will be available for membership and volunteer sign-up and the spirit store will be open for spirit clothing.

We send all of our information from the school via email. You can give us more than one email to receive information. If you are not getting at least one email a week, we do not have a good email for you. Contact us!

If your student rides a bus, be clear about your expectations for behavior. One of the options for misbehavior is a loss of riding privileges. This basically guarantees an inconvenience for the family because of the behavior on the bus. Make sure your child knows what you expect from them while they are on the bus. When bus riders arrive at school, they need to walk immediately and directly to school. They are not authorized to go to the commissary, nearby housing, or off campus.

Walkers also need to leave home and report directly to school. Be clear with your expectations.
Car riders need to be at school by 0835.

AAFES provides lunch in our cafeteria and students should have money on their accounts to charge their lunch. You can put money on our student's lunch accounts at the AAFES customer service center in the Exchange. All students remain on campus for lunch unless the parent has requested that their student walk home. If you would like your student to come home for lunch, stop in and complete a form. Your student will sign out and back in each day.

School begins at 08:40 and ends at 1520. We are on an A Day/B Day Block Schedule.

Please review the **Student Handbook on the school website:** <http://www.seoul-ms.pac.dodea.edu/>. Parents are highly encouraged to review this handbook with the student. Students cannot argue that they were not aware of a school policy because it is an expectation that the handbook has been reviewed. We will go over significant parts of the handbook during orientation, but parents should be aware of information as well.

During the course of the year, problems can arise. Please solve problems at the lowest possible level. Your child should attempt to resolve issues with their teacher as the first order. Parents who wish to advocate for their child should first meet with the teacher and try to resolve the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved with the teacher, then involve administration. Using **the Chain of Command** is an expectation in both the military and DoDDS. When parents call the hotline, the District Office, or the director, the issue is always returned to the school for resolution. We will make every attempt to resolve the issue at the school level once we know the problem.

We are interested in providing a school that meets the needs of all students. Your feedback is critical to our ability to meet the high expectations we have set. The administrators at Seoul American Middle School are maria.buchwald@pac.dodea.edu and Erin.Grazak@pac.dodea.edu. Let us know how we are doing.

We have a School Advisory Council that will begin meeting in October. If you are interested in serving on the SAC, please watch for an announcement on the open positions for this year. Self nomination forms will be sent out soon. An election will follow and the SAC meets monthly.

Parents can monitor the progress of their student in real time using **Gradespeed**. Please go to <http://www.seoul-ms.pac.dodea.edu/link.htm> and click on the Gradespeed link for parents to get signed up.

If you need help accessing Gradespeed or Sharepoint, stop by the Information Center during Open House. Mr. Jimison and Ms. Hyde will be available to assist.

The Yongsan School Liaison Officer is Mrs. Melody Hill. She can be reached at 736-5556 or 010-4198-4137. She provides access to a wide range of resources to facilitate military youth education transitions. In addition, free and reduced lunch applications and be picked up in the ACS office in Bldg. 4106.

If you need to reach a counselor:

6th grade: Ms. Carroll: 736-5082 lori.carroll@pac.dodea.edu

7th and 8th grade: Ms. Wilde: 736-5083 susan.wilde@pac.dodea.edu

ASACS: Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service is located at OCONUS locations for all four branches of military service. Most ASACS counselors are embedded within DoDDS schools. ASACS is a voluntary program that offers prevention and counseling services for military dependents and their families. There are no fees charged for services. Teens need not be substance involved to benefit from our services. In addition to providing early intervention and treatment for adolescents with substance abuse issues, we help young people navigate the teen years by building strengths, and addressing at-risk behaviors.

Maninder Sharma is the ASACS counselor for Seoul American Middle School.

Maninder.sharma@pac.dodea.edu or DSN: 736-5079.

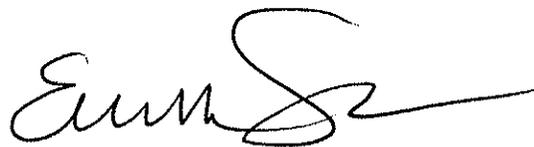
If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact her.

Homework is necessary and required by most teachers. We often find that students who are doing poorly in classes are not completing homework or studying for tests. Please make sure that your student studies **daily**, they have an area designated for study, and that they turn off the Facebook, IM, Gaia, MySpace, Gaming Website, Wii, X-Box, DS, online catalogue and cell phone. If they tell you they did it all at school, give them the "look."

We wish you all a very successful school year.



Maria Buchwald, Principal



Erin Grazak, Assistant Principal