



O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy • 6024 W. Warwick • Chicago, IL 60634 • Telephone 773-534-3640 • Fax 773/534-3639

Mr. Efren D. Toledo
Principal

Dr. George C. Chipain
Assistant Principal

09/07/2012

Dear Parents,

The first week of school is now behind us and I am expecting great things for the upcoming school year. We are all concerned about the contract talks currently going on, and many are wondering what the plans are in case of a teacher strike. I sincerely hope that the negotiating teams for both CPS and CTU can come to an agreement, but without any formal announcements, I will proceed as if school will be open on Monday. You will find information from the CEO of Chicago Public Schools on a separate letter that was sent home today detailing procedures in case of a strike.

I will normally send all important school correspondence home on Fridays. Additionally, all school-wide correspondence will also be posted on the Thorp Website. The Thorp Website is the most effective method of communication that I have with parents, and will always be updated with the latest school information. The website address is: <http://oathorpacademy.org>.

Thank you for supporting us in the education of your child,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Efren Toledo", is written over a light blue background.

Efren Toledo
Principal
O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy

Important September Dates (All dates are subject to change in the event of a strike by the CTU):

Monday September 10th: Monthly Informal Q&A with the Principal directly after the PTA Meeting.

Monday September 10th: Picture Day. All students will have their pictures taken. These pictures will be used for our new ID Card System for Lunch and Library. Parents, please make sure your child is at school even if you do not intend to buy a photo package.

Monday, September 10th to Friday, September 28th: Measure of Academic Progress Testing. This is an individualized, computer-based diagnostic test for grades K-8. Parents are encouraged to visit <http://www.nwea.org/support/article/930> for more information as well as a parent toolkit explaining the NWEA MAP Test.

Wednesday, September 19th: Open House 1st to 4th Grade 7:00PM to 8:00PM
(Kindergarten orientation occurred on August 30th).

Thursday, September 20th: Open House 5th to 8th Grade 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

LSC Meeting September 20th at 6:15 in the library.

Please check the Thorp Website for any date changes and more information.

Full School Day Initiative

Message From CEO Brizard: Over the past year, schools have been hard at work constructing a full day that will best meet the academic needs of your children. To ensure the full day is a quality day, we directed an additional \$130 million in discretionary funding for principals and local school communities to use in structuring a school day that will drive student learning. With the Full School Day, your children have access to a high quality school day that is well-rounded with more time for reading, math, science, world languages and enrichment like arts, music and physical education. Additionally, each day, students

will have time for a full lunch and recess, giving them the opportunity to re-boot and return to the classroom refreshed and ready to learn.

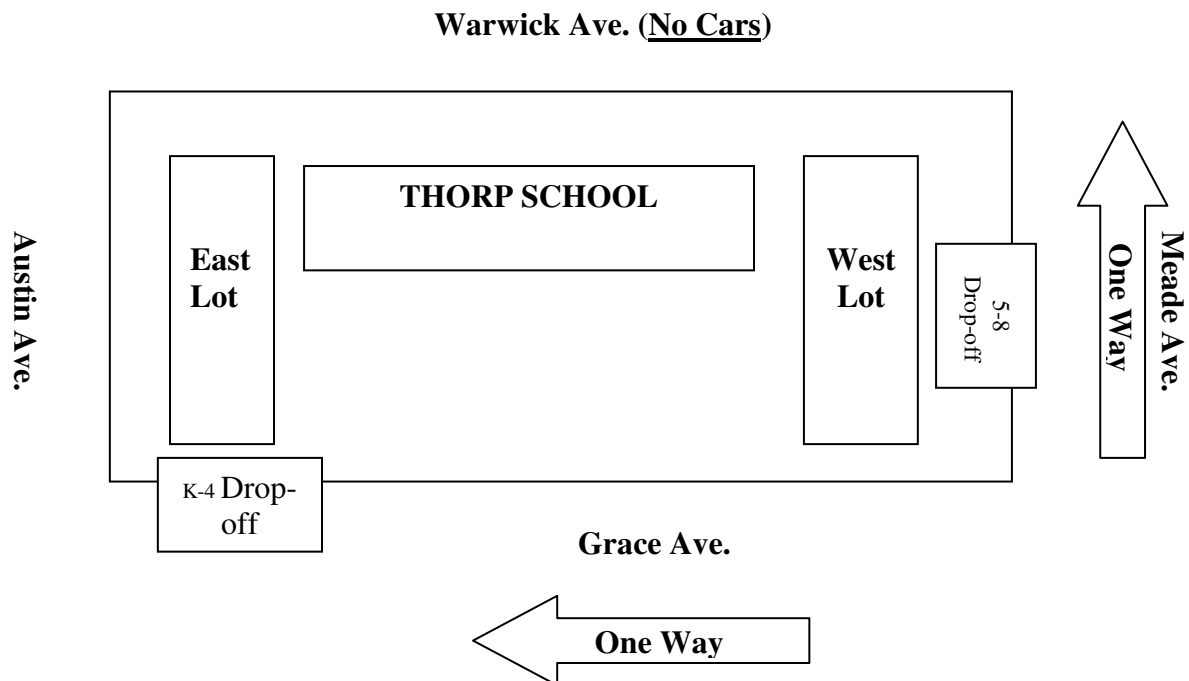
While the time the Full Day adds to the day is critical, the Full Day is about more than just adding minutes to the day. The Full School Day also includes the implementation of a new, more rigorous curriculum to better prepare children for college, as well as a new instructional framework that will better support teachers to improve the quality of instruction delivered to students in the classroom.

What it means to Thorp: The Full School Day (FSD) Initiative has allowed us to add both a computer teacher and a health teacher to augment our traditional curriculum. Additionally, the FSD Initiative has allowed us to offer lunch and recess to all of our children for 45 minutes a day. Having access to technology, expanded times for physical education and health, as well as unstructured play time during recess helps us fulfill our commitment to providing learning opportunities that will foster the development of the whole child. If you have any other questions about the FSD Initiative at Thorp please email either myself edtoledo@cps.edu or our Assistant Principal Dr. Chipain: gcchipain@cps.edu.

New Procedures:

For the safety of our students we are implementing a new policy for dropping off and picking up students. Warwick Avenue will be open for busses only during entrance and dismissal times.

- Parents of students in grades K-4 may drop their children off on Grace Street closest to the east playground.
- Students in grades 5-8 grade may be dropped off on Meade Ave to prevent traffic backups. These students can enter the west playground off of Meade Avenue.
- If your children line up on different playgrounds, please drop your children off on the east playground. Your older child can walk the younger child to the east playground and then return to the west playground.



Parents, the Austin Ave. parking lot is reserved for Thorp Staff only. Parents need to park on nearby streets instead of parking in the lot when picking up children.

Lunch Money Collection:

Parents please note that lunch money will be collected at the beginning of the school week. If your child pays for a school lunch please make sure to bring your money in a sealed envelope or Ziploc bag with your child's name, room and amount on either our deposit slip or on a slip of paper.