

explore!

Hello!

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the first session of Explore 2018 at Pershing Middle School. My name is Becky Ash, and I am beyond excited to be your child's principal during the month of June. I've been in education for 11 years, spending eight of them in Springfield Public Schools. I enjoyed teaching 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, and I love my current role as the principal at Pipkin Middle School. I earned my Bachelor's Degree at Fontbonne University, my Master's Degree at Missouri State University, and I am currently working towards my Doctorate Degree at Southwest Baptist University. When I'm not working, you can find me enjoying time with my precious family. My husband and I love the lake in the summer, and we cherish our time together with our three children. I can't wait to meet your child and learn more about your family, too.



Session 1 of Explore will begin on Tuesday, June 5th, and will continue five days a week until June 29th. While students can be dropped off as early as 7:30am, we will begin classes promptly at 8:00am and the day ends at 2:30pm. Breakfast and lunch will be available to all students at no cost.

Free transportation will be available to middle school students to their designated Explore sites. Students must register by April 15 to be guaranteed bus transportation on the first day of Explore. If you've missed that deadline, don't worry! Transportation may still be available but can't be guaranteed for the first day. Students are eligible if they live within the designated attendance area and their residence is more than 1.5 miles from their designated Explore site. "Where's My Stop" postcards will be delivered the week of May 21st. Students may choose to attend any Explore location if they provide their own transportation. Call 417-523-0500 for transportation questions.

The YMCA will offer wrap-around care for a fee both before and after school. You can drop your child off as early as 6:30am, and you can pick your child up as late as 6:00pm if they are enrolled with the YMCA. To get your child enrolled, please call 417-862-8962.

Having good attendance is extremely important during Explore. There are many activities and experiences to take part in, and we want to make sure your child doesn't miss out. Your efforts in making sure your child is here every day is very much appreciated!

Demonstrating good behavior is also an expectation during Explore. Student misbehaviors will be addressed in a proactive manner using principles of positive behavior interventions. Explore Coordinators from the SPS district office will review instances with students having repeated inappropriate behaviors. At the Explore Coordinators' discretion, students with repeated inappropriate behavior may be dropped from the program.

Students are encouraged to bring their leftover school supplies from this past school year to Explore. Supplies your child may bring: pencils, a notebook, colored pencils, a folder, glue, and scissors.

If your child requires medication to be taken during school hours, please contact our school nurse so the proper paperwork can be completed.

I look forward to meeting you in June for Explore! Until then, enjoy these last few months of the 2017-18 school year!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Becky Ash, Principal
Pershing Middle School Explore Session I
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