

Solomon Principal Newsletter

August 21, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

We had a great time on Thursday afternoon, [celebrating the opening of our new playground with Alderman Nugent and the community](#), as well as hosting our open house. The start of the school year brings a lot of excitement, and thank you for being there to share in it!

In addition to our new playground, there are other facilities projects at Solomon:

- First and foremost, I want to thank our engineer Charles and lead custodian Shedrick for getting our building ready for opening day. We look ready!
- New carpet was installed in our main office.
- New fencing and some repaving of our staff lot were a part of our playground project.
- A second chiller is scheduled to be installed in October 2023, bringing our A/C capacity up to 100%. Currently we have one chiller online, and while that has kept the building comfortable this week, the system will be strained by the extreme heat later this week. See below for more on preparing for high temperatures later this week.

Please reach out to me with any questions at crgamble@cps.edu or 773-534-5226.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

Welcome, New Solomon Staff!

- [Sean Conway](#), 2nd Grade Teacher: "I am very excited to join CPS and be a part of Solomon Elementary. I moved from Phoenix, Arizona to Chicago in June. This will be my twelfth year in education. I spent seven years in the classroom teaching First, Third and Fourth grade. For four years I was a reading specialist. I have a four year old dog named Ronin who is part Boxer and part Boston Terrier."

Day 1 Procedures

- Click [here](#) to see which doors your child will enter and exit through this year. Please read this document carefully, as it details our early dismissal process and our morning tardy policy.
- Visitors can ONLY enter Solomon through Door 1 on Hamlin, where they will check in with our security staff, Officers Alvarado and Thomas. There are no exceptions to this policy. Similarly, visitors may only exit Solomon through Door 1.
- Starting Monday morning, the staff parking lot is off-limits to non-staff members between 8:30-9:15, as we have students lining up for class in that space. The same goes for 3:30-4:15. The lot can be used by parents before 8:30 for YMCA before-school child care drop off and YMCA after-school child care pick-up after 4:15 (both at Door #6).

Parking is not permitted by non-staff members at any time. Please help us keep everyone safe!

- Students are expected to attend school and arrive on time daily unless they have to miss school due to the excusable instances outlined in our [district's attendance policy](#). The easiest way for you to report your child's attendance is to call our main office, 773-534-5226, and then press "2" to leave a message on our attendance line. Please provide all the information that the message requests.
- We will have many staff available in and outside of the school tomorrow to help with the morning jitters, including myself and our counselor, Mrs. Mulholland. Students will see us visible all day, and parents can call our main office at 773-534-5226 with any questions or concerns.

News and Notes

- Please be on the lookout this week for updates from me and/or the district regarding the extreme heat predicted for Chicago later this week. Students are encouraged to wear shorts and/or loose cotton clothing that conforms with our [dress code](#), and they are also encouraged to bring a water bottle that they can fill up and keep at their seats throughout the day.
- We currently have one vacancy for a part-time position at Solomon that is perfect for Solomon parents. This position supports our lunch and recess supervision, along with some light clerical work in the main office, every day between 11am-3pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Principal Gamble at crgamble@cps.edu, and he can assist you with the application process. We are looking to staff this position for the start of our school year.
- We are also looking for coaches for our fall sports (grades 5-8 only): Boys and Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and Co-Ed Cross Country. If you are interested in coaching this fall, please contact Principal Gamble directly at crgamble@cps.edu.
- COVID protocols for the 2023-2024 school year: Like last year, families are asked to report any student positive COVID tests at cps.edu/covidresults. Students will be required to isolate for 5 days, with the exact dates of the isolation being dictated by the district's contact tracers. Schools will be informed of positive tests by the contact tracers, and then communication will go out to the families of close contacts, notifying them of a positive test and the availability of take-home COVID tests. In-school PCR testing is no longer available. Masking is optional for students, staff, and community members that have not tested positive for COVID within the 10 day window. Please click [here](#) to read district-provided information.
- Still need assistance with student registration? Click [here](#) for information on what you will need to register your child as a new student at Solomon this coming school year. Registration is available daily between 9am-4pm. Please come to Door 1 on Hamlin to connect with our main office.
- All families, not just families of new students, should review the [linked packet from the CPS Office of Health and Wellness](#) and complete the included forms. The forms in this packet should be returned to our school manager, Mrs. Tamborino, as soon as possible. Hard copies of these forms will travel home the first week of school as well.
- Like last school year, we will communicate with parents through the Snap! Connect app. Through August 21, I will send these newsletters out via Aspen. If you have not joined Snap! yet, be on the lookout for invitations sent to the email addresses listed in Aspen; we will also send home paper copy invitations this week. I will send out newsletters weekly, but I will also use Snap! to send any mid-week updates or more emergent

information as needed.

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization

- Our Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a parent and staff leadership group that promotes community and supports Solomon in our strategic plan.
- Our PTO leadership is Amy Cramer (President), Joyce Baca (Secretary), and Joseph Levy (Treasurer).
- Please click [here](#) to read more about their mission and vision, as well as the dates for many of this year's PTO-led events, including Fall Fest on October 20!

Important Solomon Links

- To report a COVID-19 positive test, click [here](#).
- To find Solomon's breakfast and lunch menus, click [here](#) (search for "Solomon"). To learn more about the district's meals and nutrition program, click [here](#).
- To find any Solomon staff member, their position, and their contact information, click [here](#) for our organizational chart.
- To register for before and/or after-school child care with the YMCA of Chicago, hosted in our lunchroom, please follow the directions in [this link](#).
- Please click [here](#) to read more about the differences between Level I and Level II volunteers and to complete the application process.
- To see our year-long community calendar, click [here](#).
- To see our year-long assessment calendar, click [here](#).
- Solomon spirit wear purchases can be made through our partner, Squadlocker. Check out unique Solomon gear [here](#).
- Student fees were approved by our Local School Council this past July. Please click [here](#) to see the student fee structure for this year and the methods of payment.
- Class supply lists are linked [here](#) and at our school website, solomon.cps.edu.

School Calendar

- **August 21:** First day of school for students, 9:00
- **August 31:** First school tour of the year for prospective families, 9:30 (lobby)
- **September 4:** Labor Day (No School for Students or Staff)
- **September 7:** Curriculum Night, 6:00-7:30 pm (gymnasium, then classrooms)
- **September 12:** Friends of Solomon School PTO meeting, 8:00 (lobby)
- **September 12:** Local School Council meeting, 5:30 (library)
- **October 20:** Fall Fest returns!, 4:00-7:00 (playground and turf)