

# Solomon Principal Newsletter

## August 28, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

Congratulations to everyone for a successful start to our school year. This year posed some new challenges with the heat emergency, but our staff, especially our Facilities team, stepped up to the challenge and maintained a safe environment for all students and staff.

This was a week of building relationships, structures, and routines. That work will continue into this week, as we prioritize those actions in order to help all students and staff feel safe and supported. Safe and supported means ready for academic challenges!

A minor change to our entry procedures, which is detailed in our [entry and exit procedures document](#) for parents dropping off students from our cluster program classrooms (104, 106AM, 117, and 122): We will use 8:45-8:50 to have staff available to unload the buses, and then we will bring in students being dropped off by their parents starting at 8:50. We have much fewer bus riders this year due to the transportation incentives, so we have to reallocate staff accordingly. Plus, transportation arrival and departure times have been variable this past week, as is expected. Thanks for your patience as we find a system that works for our staff.

Please reach out to me with any questions at [crgamble@cps.edu](mailto:crgamble@cps.edu) or 773-534-5226.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble  
Principal  
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

## Welcome, New Solomon Staff!

We are very excited to have new staff members joining us at Solomon this year. In addition to the ones I introduced you to the past few weeks, the following individuals have also joined our team:

- Carrie Carlson, Lead Instructional Coach
- Rita Luna Diamant, Special Education Classroom Assistant
- Jaclyn Giordano, Physical Education Teacher
- Lillian Hang, Occupational Therapist
- Melissa Herrera, Nurse
- Sola Oluwande, Speech Therapist
- Liam Rocks, School Social Worker
- Lakeesha Thomas (Officer Keke), School Security Officer
- Rachel Wilson, Diverse Learner Teacher

## News and Notes

- We are finalizing our fall sports participation and schedules this week:

- We are confirmed for having 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade girls volleyball teams this season. Coach Tamborino will be working with 7th/8th, and Coach Mulholland will be working with 5th/6th. The first thing that needs to be done is for the girls to return their completed applications to the Main Office no later than Thursday, August 31. The coaches will follow up with the girls who sign up regarding the practice and game schedules shortly.
- We *may* be able to field 5th/6th and 7th/8th Boys Soccer teams, but we are waiting for confirmation from the district. I should know by Monday, and if so, I'll get those applications to the boys so that they can submit them by Thursday as well. Stay tuned!
- Our sports programs for 5th-8th graders is a part of CPS Score, a free program that is an introduction to these sports for many students. Solomon provides awesome jerseys too. In the winter we will host girls and boys basketball, as well as flag football and track and field in the spring, as long as we have enough registrants and coaches.
- Dates for this year have not been finalized, but this is the first notification that your child may receive a vision and/or hearing screener.
  - Vision screenings are required for (1) all Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 8th grade students, (2) all students who are new to the district, and (3) all students with or have an upcoming evaluation for an IEP.
  - Hearing screenings are required for (1) all Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade students, (2) all students who are new to the district, and (3) all students with or have an upcoming evaluation for an IEP
  - To learn more about the screening process, click [here](#). This letter will be updated with the dates of the screenings when they are available.
- 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](https://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.
- Our friends at the Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center (CIADC) host free after-school youth programming, with the next session beginning September 11. For more information about their program, click [here](#). To sign up, click [here](#).

## 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!
- The first PTO-led activity coming up is the Art to Remember art submission. Stay tuned for more information soon!

## 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](http://solomon.cps.edu).

## School Calendar

- **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)