



# APTOS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

*Home of the Sea Dragons*



Brian Saxton, Principal  
Richard Hallett, Assistant Principal

1001 Huntington Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003  
(831) 688-3234  
FAX (831) 728-8139

## APTOS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OPENING SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2009-2010

### Principal's Message

**WELCOME** to the beginning of another new school year. Can you believe that it is time to start another school year? For some of you this will be a new beginning as you enter a new school, for others you will be returning to familiar ground. For all of you entering AJHS this year I encourage to branch out, reach out and meet new people, sit in a new spot, try a new sport and just have fun. You will have the opportunity to meet quite a few new people this year and I hope that you take the opportunity to expand your horizons both academically and socially. One of my goals this year is to attempt to learn more names than last year. This will be difficult for me, but you can help me by introducing yourself, hopefully you won't have to do this more than once☺. With that said I hope that you will enjoy your last few days of summer and enjoy the information that is contained in this newsletter.

Here's to another great year,  
Brian

### BOOKS AND SCHEDULES

**Books and schedules may be picked up on the following dates and times according to the last name of the student.**

<b>A-H</b>	<b>August 4</b>	<b>9-12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m.</b>
<b>I-P</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>9-12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m.</b>
<b>Q-Z</b>	<b>August 6</b>	<b>9-12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m.</b>

**SCHEDULES ONLY ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS- 8/7, 8/10-8/11 IN THE MAIN OFFICE USING THE SAME TIME FRAME AS ABOVE**

**Books and schedules which are not picked up on these days will be handed out the first day of school Wednesday August, 12.**

**IN ORDER TO HELP US GET EVERYONE THEIR SCHEDULE IN A TIMELEY MANNER PLEASE PICK UP BOOKS ON THE DAY ASSIGNED.**

### **New Student Orientation to Aptos Junior High**

Seventh grader and new incoming student orientation program will be Friday, August 7 from 9am to 11:30 am. Students will have the opportunity to tour the campus and have any last minute questions answered by our eighth grade WEB Leaders. The school strongly encourages all new students to attend this wonderful activity.

### **WEB Leader Training**

Training for 8<sup>th</sup> grade WEB leaders will take place on Wednesday August 5 from 9am to 12 noon in the school gym.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL TUESDAYS**

Each Tuesday during the school year (with few exceptions) school will end at 1:05. Students will be expected to exit campus at this time. Bus transportations will be provided the same as other school days. Buses will depart the school at approximately 1:15. Staff will be involved in meetings from 1:20-3:20 on these days thus all afterschool activities will not start until 3:30. More information will be posted on the web as it becomes available.

### **CELL PHONES**

Cell phones are allowed to be used on campus before school and after school. They are not to be used for anything during the school day. If a student is caught using the cell phone during the school day it will be confiscated. For the school policy on confiscated items, please refer to your child's binder reminder.

### **The Successful Learner**

The staff at Aptos Junior High developed this self-evaluation to help students and parents prepare for success at the junior high. There is also excellent information on our web site [www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net](http://www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net). (Recognized by the Duke University Newsletter). Click on Library and then click on Reading, or Programs, or Professional & Parent to find information on preparing for junior high. Each of these links contains valuable information on successful learning strategies for students

<b>CHOOSE ONE:</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
5 4 3 2 1	I keep my desk and backpack clean and well organized.
5 4 3 2 1	I have a binder or folder system for keeping track of homework, graded work, and school notices.
5 4 3 2 1	I turn in school forms signed and on time.
5 4 3 2 1	I come to class prepared with all necessary materials.
5 4 3 2 1	I return my library books on time.
5 4 3 2 1	I know how to open a combination lock and can remember my combination.
	<b>WRITTEN WORK</b>
5 4 3 2 1	I put my first and last name, date and period on all my assignments.
5 4 3 2 1	All my assignments are turned in complete and on time.
5 4 3 2 1	All my assignments are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ neatly written.</li> <li>○ on the correct side of the paper.</li> <li>○ neat, clean, dry and unwrinkled.</li> </ul>
	<b>ACADEMIC/ STUDY SKILLS</b>
5 4 3 2 1	I am able to write legibly in cursive and printing.
5 4 3 2 1	I know how to write a well organized expository paragraph that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a topic sentence.</li> <li>○ several important points.</li> <li>○ supporting evidence for each point.</li> <li>○ a conclusion.</li> </ul>
5 4 3 2 1	I am able to select and read chapter books at my level; I consistently pass AR tests on books I read.
5 4 3 2 1	I am able to read textbooks for information, identify important ideas, and outline or take notes for review.
5 4 3 2 1	I know basic math facts; multiplication, division, fractions, etc.
	<b>SOCIAL SKILLS</b>
5 4 3 2 1	I am enthusiastic and open to new experiences.
5 4 3 2 1	I am open to meeting new people and making new friends.
5 4 3 2 1	I ask an adult for help when I need support or clarification.
5 4 3 2 1	I participate in school activities.

## **SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS** **APTOS JUNIOR HIGH**

The Aptos Junior High staff has identified the following supplies and materials as being very important in helping students be organized for all their classes.

1. BACKPACK
2. PENCILS
  - a. MECHANICAL OR REGULAR
3. INK PENS
  - a. BLUE OR BLACK
4. ERASER
5. 3 RING BINDER 2" OR 3"
6. FILLER PAPER 8.5 X 11
7. POCKET DIVIDERS (6)
8. 3 HOLE ZIPPER PENCIL POUCH
9. HIGHLIGHTER (ANY COLOR)
10. SPIRAL RINGED NOTEBOOK (8.5 X 11)
11. PENCIL SHARPENER WITH COVER

### **THESE ITEMS ARE SPECIFIC FOR MATH**

1. CALCULATOR WITH FUNCTION KEYS
2. 6" RULER
3. GRAPH PAPER

## APTOS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DRESS GUIDELINES

Students are expected to dress appropriately and be properly groomed for school. Student dress does have an effect of behavior and attitude toward the learning environment. Student dress cannot disrupt the educational program of the school. Any attire or grooming habits deemed inappropriate will be called to the attention of the parents. If you have questions concerning the school dress code, please contact Richard Hallett, Assistant Principal at 688-3234 or email him at: richard\_hallett@pvusd.net

### **DRESS CODE GUIDELINES:** (The following items are not allowed at school)

- **Clothes, jewelry, symbols, signs, emblems, etc. which are evidence of membership in or affiliation with a gang. (District Policy 4508.3.1)**
- **Belts with initials (any letter/any color)**
- **Extremely long belts (any color)**
- **Numbered items relating to gangs**
- **Chains (longer than 4 inches)**
- **Steel toed shoes**
- **Clothing may not contain messages with any of the following:  
Alcohol/drugs/tobacco/sexual message/excessive violence/profanity.**
- **Any item which intimidates by fear of violence or may provoke others to acts of violence**
- **Mid-riff or strapless tops**
- **Spaghetti straps (straps must be at least 2 fingers in width)**
- **Underwear must not be showing (boxers, bra straps, etc.)**
- **Pajamas of any kind (pajama pants, tops, etc)**

- **Bandanas, headbands, and the like may not be worn at school**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE GUIDELINES FOR THESE SPECIFIC ITEMS**

- **Headwear must be worn bill forward (if applicable) and may not be worn inside any school buildings. Beanies are allowed but may not be worn indoors**
- **Skirts: As a guideline your skirt should be even with or extend past your fingertips when your arms are hanging naturally at your side**
- **Shorts: Ultra short and short shorts should not be worn to school. As a guideline the inseam on your shorts should be at least 3 inches in length**
- **For health and safety purposes, shoes must be worn at all times.**
- **Pants should be worn in the waist area and should not be sagging.**
  - **Sagging is defined as having the waist band of your pants 2 inches or more below your hip bone.**

**Violations of the dress guidelines may result in after school detention, Saturday School, suspension or other administrative action. Your style of clothing is to be individual and personal yet not distracting, disruptive or unsafe.**

**Miss School We All Miss Out**

Attendance is important not only for learning but when students miss school we also lose money. Every day a student misses school we lose \$30.72. When students miss twenty days of school they are missing a month of instruction. Students who miss twenty or more days of instruction become at risk of being retained and not passing to the next grade.

**Back To School Night**

On Thursday evening September 3th you will have an opportunity to visit your child's classrooms. On this night you will be following your child's daily schedule and spending about 10 minutes in each class hearing about the teacher's expectations for the year. We will begin at 6:30 pm in the gym with a short presentation on school activities for the year.

**Newsletter On The Web**

In an effort to communicate more effectively we place the Aptos Junior High school monthly newsletter on our Web Site at [www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net](http://www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net). All newsletters will be placed on the web. No copies will be mailed. If you do not have access to a computer hard copies will be available for pick up in the main office. An archive of all newsletters will be maintained on the website.

**For daily information on what is happening at Aptos Junior High please log on to our WEB SITE at [www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net](http://www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net).**

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

On Monday evening August 31 we will have our first School Advisory Council meeting of the year at 7:00 pm in Room 2. The School Advisory Council is composed of parents,

students and teachers working together to continuously improve the program offered at Aptos Junior High. Home & School Club members and School Site Council members all attend these monthly meetings. Together they advise the school on the numerous academic and social activities we provide for students. We discuss issues affecting student achievement, program implementation, activities and funding to support our programs. Some of these activities include, clubs, dances, awards nights, sports, state testing, etc. Our meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month except December. Please join us on Monday, August 25. We need your ideas for making Aptos Junior High a better school for students, teachers and parents.

### **Two 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Representatives Needed For School Site Council**

The Aptos Junior High School Site Council is a group of parents and staff who work together to develop and evaluate the School Plan. The School Plan and accompanying Budget is updated annually by the Site Council, which monitors progress through an on-going evaluation process. The Site Council meets monthly at the SAC meetings described in the paragraph above. Each fall at Back to School Night, two 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents are elected to each serve a two-year term on the Site Council. Interested parents may contact Principal, Brian Saxton @ [brian\\_saxton@pvusd.net](mailto:brian_saxton@pvusd.net)

### **Enrichment Opportunities**

Last year with the encouragement of the School Advisory Council new extra-curricular club opportunities were made available to AJHS students: The Underwater Robotics Club, The Mock Trial Club and The Math Club. Through exposure to diverse and enriching learning experiences all students can be inspired to achieve a love of learning. This year we hope to expand the program and seek more opportunities to supplement and extend the existing classroom curriculum. Check the school website and future newsletters for more information. We are fortunate to have outstanding teacher advisors for these clubs but parent volunteers are critical to the success as well. Have questions or time to volunteer? Please contact the principal.

### **Textbooks and Backpacks**

At the beginning of each year there is always a concern about backpacks, the weight of our textbooks and the fact that students are moving with their backpacks from class to class. We recommend that students use a rolling backpack as the simplest answer to the problem. Students will be issued a locker by the second week of school. They will share this locker with another student. Our schedule is arranged in such a way that students have a break every two periods to visit their locker and exchange books. Teachers who have room in their classroom will allow students to store the textbook for that class. Our school budget cannot afford sets of books for each class. Parents may purchase, from the publisher, their own personal copy of a textbook that could remain at home. Ordering information is available from our librarian.

## **STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLY TO SCHOOL**

Aptos Junior High does not have supervision of students at school until 8:00 am on regular school days. Students arriving before that time will be unsupervised and when the rainy season begins they will be out in the rain and cold. This concerns us and we are asking for your support in providing supervision for your children and not dropping them off at school before 8:00am on regular days.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL TUESDAYS**

Each Tuesday during the school year (with few exceptions) school will end at 1:05. Students will be expected to exit campus at this time. Bus transportations will be provided the same as other school days. Buses will depart the school at approximately 1:15. Staff will be involved in meetings from 1:20-3:20 on these days thus all afterschool activities will not start until 3:30. More information will be posted on the web as it becomes available.

## **Bus Transportation & Passes**

Information concerning bus stops and bus passes will be available when you pick-up your books and schedules. Bus passes are \$10 and checks can be made out to the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (P.V.U.S.D.)

## **Parking Issues**

In an effort to increase the safety of our students, staff at Aptos Junior High will be monitoring the parking lot before and after school. Please assist us in keeping your students safe by observing the following guidelines:

1. Please drive forward to the gate where students will be dropped off to enter the school through the basketball courts.
2. Students are not to exit the car until reaching the gate leading to the basketball courts. This will eliminate most of the congestion created by students exiting cars at the entrance to the school.
3. Please make sure that your student is ready to go before you drop them off. If you need to have long conversations or write notes, etc. please find a parking spot. By doing this you will help us to move traffic along quickly.

## **Parent Messages To Students During School**

Please make arrangements with your child before they arrive at school for any personal messages (*don't forget to stay for tutoring or sports, call me when you get home, don't forget to feed the dog or cat etc.*). If you have an emergency and need to get a message to your child the secretary will notify the student as soon as it is practical to do so. Students who have items delivered to the office by their parents will be sent a note to pick up the item during non-class time. The office is not responsible for these items. **If your student is absent please call 688-3234 after 8:00 am.**

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences are always arranged through the front office. When coming on campus all parents need to sign-in at the front office. For the safety of the students we have a closed campus and no one, including parents, is allowed on the campus without permission from the front office. If you wish to meet with a teacher these meetings are to

be arranged by either contacting the teacher ahead of time or contacting Mr. Determan, Mr. Hallett or Mr. Saxton before meeting with the teacher. As a general practice if you would like to meet with all of your child's teachers at once this meeting can be arranged through the counseling office. These meetings are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 3:15 pm.

### **Resolving Problems and/or Complaints**

The parents' first contact in the event of a problem is always the child's teacher. Teachers are available for phone calls before and after school. Teachers can also be contacted by e-mail. If you have difficulty contacting a teacher please contact our guidance counselor Mr. Determan. Parent conferences may be set up at any time during the school year (please do not ask to conference with the teacher during class time). The principal will enter into the problem-solving process only if the teacher and parent cannot develop a mutually agreeable solution.

Per district policy (#1306) the normal channel for complaints concerning school personnel shall be from complainant (student/parent/guardian) to employee (teacher/staff), to the principal, to the Assistant Superintendent, to the Superintendent, to the Governing Board. Every effort will be made to satisfy the complaint at the earliest possible stage. Complaints not resolved at the point of origin must be submitted in writing before further processing.

### **Respecting Our Neighbors**

Please be respectful of our neighbors down at Surf City and The Palm Deli. While they appreciate the business, they have asked that parents and students be aware that business is being conducted and to not block parking spots or doorways. Also please remind your students to pick up any litter that they may create and be respectful of the storeowners and customers that visit the businesses in this area.

#### **Polo Drive:**

When parking on Polo Drive please remember to pick up your trash and be respectful of the homes and people on Polo Drive.

#### **Huntington Drive:**

In the past we have received complaints from the community that our parents drive too fast on Huntington Drive and we have been asked to request that you not exceed 25 mph on this road.

### **Magazine Sale To Support Student Activities**

Each year Aptos Junior High conducts a magazine sales fundraiser to support student activities. This year's fund drive we will start on August 21, and run for approximately three weeks. All of the funds raised in this sale of magazines are used for classroom supplies and equipment, technology, supporting sports activities, student awards, hiring of extra coaches, school dances, graduation activities, noontime activities, etc. The School Advisory Council has the responsibility of accounting for the distribution of the funds to meet the identified needs of the school. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000.

## **Aptos Junior High School has eScrip**

If you are new to our school and do not have children at another school we encourage you to register with our school today.

Simply by registering your Safeway Club Card, Chevron Card, ATM/debit cards, or credit cards with eScrip, you can earn money for Aptos Junior High School. There is no cost to you for registering, and every purchase you make at a participating merchant earns Aptos Junior High School money. If you have children attending other schools, you may choose to contribute a portion to each school. There are two ways to register: (See our Web Site [www.aptosjr.pvusd.net](http://www.aptosjr.pvusd.net) for easy access)

1. [Register online](#) at the eScrip website.
2. Call 1-800-592-0942 and follow the instructions.

**Please Note:** You will be asked to provide a School ID. The ID for Aptos Junior High School is **3691845**

### **AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM**

The after school tutorial program will begin the second week in September. Parents should call Mr. Determan to obtain information about the program and to receive the application.

## **MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION**

**In is important for parents to realize that eighth grade promotion requirements begin in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Eighth grade promotion is based on the cumulative grade point average for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes and it must be 2.0.**

Students in grades 6-7-8 in the middle school or junior high schools of the Pajaro Valley Unified School shall follow the Promotion/Retention Policy #5123 in order to be promoted to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **PROMOTEES**

In order to be eligible for promotion, a student must meet the following three criteria:

- Achieve a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Score at or above the Basic level (3) on the California State Test in Language Arts and Math or pass the District Proficiency Exam in Math and Reading.

## **PROVISIONAL PROMOTEEES**

Students who are not retained, but have not met the standards of promotion will be provisionally promoted.

## **RETAINNEES**

A student will be retained at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level if he/she:

- Has a cumulative grade point average less than 1.5
- And scores below the Basic level (3) on the California State Test in Language Arts and Math and fails to pass the District Proficiency Exam in Math or Reading

## **CONDITIONAL PROMOTION FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE:**

### **1. Students conditionally Promoted:**

- Will not** participate in the promotion ceremony and **will not** receive a certificate of promotion.
- Will not** participate in the Eighth Grade Dance.
- Will not** participate in the Eighth Grade Field Trip.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Richard Determan (guidance counselor) at 688-3234

## **Important Dates To Remember**

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

August 12	First day of School
August 28	Picture Day
September 3	Back to School Night
September 7	Labor Day
Aug. 21-Sept.9	Magazine Drive
September 25	Make Up Pictures
October 7&8	School Play
October 9	End of 1st Quarter
October 23	School Dance
November 5&6	Honor Roll Bfast
November 11	School Holiday
November 24-27	Thanksgiving
December 16&17	School Play
December 18	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
December 21-January 11	Winter Break
January 12	School Resumes
January 18	School Holiday
February 4&5	Honor Roll Bfast
February 8	School Holiday
February 15	School Holiday
February 26	School Dance
March 17&18	School Play
March 18	Open House
March 19	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter

April 2-9	Spring Break
April 22&23	Honor Roll Bfast
May 6	6 <sup>th</sup> grade parent night
May 19	Recognition Bfast
May 21	Talent Show
May 28	8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
June 1	Academic Honors Night
June 2	Play day/Yearbook Dist.
June 3	Graduation
June 4	8 <sup>th</sup> grade trip
June 4	Last day of school

\*all dates are subject to chan

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED AS A PARENT AT APTOS JUNIOR HIGH

**Our school has numerous committees that need chairpersons and volunteers.**

**You can help by being involved!!! We need your help with:**

E-scrip	Monte Fireworks (sell tickets and booth help)
Music Boosters	Drama Boosters
Dance Chaperones	Sports Boosters
School Beautification	Academic Honors Night
Incentive Awards	Reward of Reading Program
8th Grade Dance	Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
Sports Awards Night	Honor Roll Breakfast
Magazine fundraiser	Library and Office Help
Help Serve Lunches	Silent Auction at Michael's on Main

Parents on Campus (come be a volunteer during a lunch hour to be another set of eyes and ears to help our staff)

Please contact AJH Home and School Club co-president for more information!

Sally Locke-Paddon and Dadri Laine

And please check our school website at [www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net](http://www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net)

APTOS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1001 Huntington Drive

Aptos, CA 95003

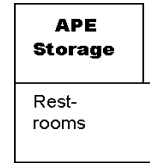
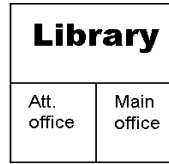
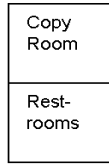
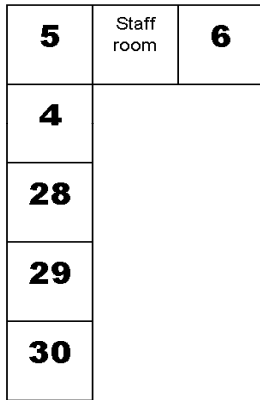
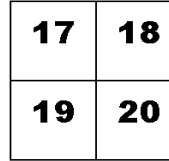
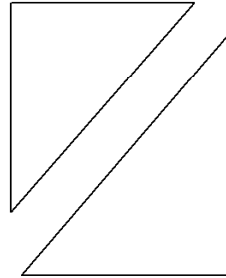
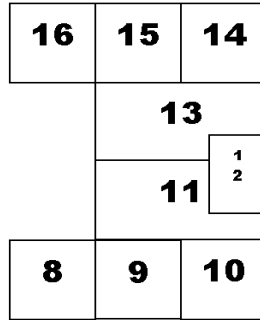
831.688.3234

www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net

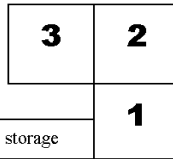


STAFF PARKING

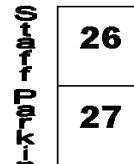
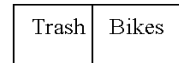
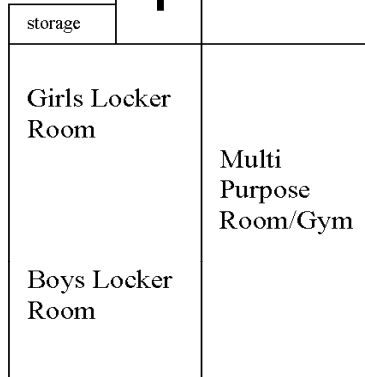
AJHS Bell Schedules	
Period 1	8:35-9:27
Period 2	9:30-10:25
Break	10:25-10:38
Period 3	10:41-11:33
Period 4	11:36-12:28
Lunch	12:28-1:05
Period 5	1:08-2:00
Period 6	2:03-2:55



stairs



Main Quad



Basketball Courts

Playing Fields



Palm tree

