



Pershing Middle School
September 29, 2006

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Shadow Your Child Day! We are ever so hopeful that this experience will help parents understand just what goes on in middle school! We are also a little afraid about what might go wrong. In talking with students, parents, and teachers, I have had a chance to hear about hopes and fears. Here are some common concerns I have heard about:

- Students: I hope my mom does not talk about me in front of everyone.
I hope my mom does not kiss me or tell me she loves me in front of everyone.
What if my dad tells me I am doing my work wrong?
What if my mom makes me late to class?
- Parents: My child says he does not want me to come. Should I come anyway?
What if I can't do the work the students are doing? Will the teacher call on me?
Will I be able to talk to the teacher about how my child is doing?
Where are the adult bathrooms?
- Teacher: I hope parents follow the class rules!
I hope parents don't interrupt me while I am teaching.
Will parents be nice to all my students?
I hope parents understand our students are still learning and that mistakes are OK!
If parents don't have a visitor badge, will they get mad if I ask them to go and sign-in?
- Principal: What if parents don't sign-in in accordance with state law?
Will parents know they cannot go in student bathrooms?
Will students feel embarrassed by their parents?
Will teachers get nervous and make mistakes?
Will parents appreciate how hard the teachers have worked?
What if the day is a flop?

In order to make this easier, for everyone, I have developed the following guidelines for parents.

Parents, please:

- Sign-in for the day in front of school before going to class.
- Do not use or enter student bathrooms or locker rooms. Adult bathrooms are located in the main office.
- Wear visitor badge at all times.
- Smile a lot so teachers and students relax in your presence.
- Please do not talk to other parents during class unless invited to by the teacher.
- Participate if invited by the teacher and your child. Otherwise, please watch and wait.
- Make an appointment to privately discuss your child's progress if you have concerns.
- Be sensitive to your child's need for independence. Save the 'mushy stuff' for home!
- Thank the teachers when leaving.
- Please fill out the evaluation sheet at the end of the day so we can get better!

Parents, thank you so much for coming for the day. We appreciate your willingness to get involved and to give us feedback on making our middle school a child-centered place for children to grow in.

Best Wishes,

Sarah Sullivan
Principal

