**From the Principal**

**All Parents (2nd Grade Parents, in particular)—Arrival Time**

While we want our building to continue to be an inviting atmosphere, we also want to help transition our students to some of the expectations that they will encounter as they enter 3rd grade. At Odessa Upper Elementary students will either go to breakfast or congregate in the gym in the morning time. Parents do not walk their students all the way to their classrooms, as they are not going to their classrooms until around 7:45. This is a tough transition for some of our students as they have had a parent walk them to their rooms their whole McQuerry career. One way to help your student with this, and gain a sense of independence, is to **NOT** walk your student all the way to their classroom, but to start this transition by walking them to either the 2nd grade hallway or to the main four –way and saying your goodbyes there, or using our Kiss-and-Go line for easy drop-off. If there is a reason that you need to walk your students all the way to their classroom, then you will still be able to do so. I just ask all parents (Kindergarten and 1st Grade parents, too) be mindful that classroom teachers are “on duty” beginning at 7:30. This is not really a time to have a long conversation, a conference, etc. Teachers need to be able to monitor and assist their students, and having a parent want to have an in-depth conversation during arrival time is very difficult. If you need to set up a time to visit with your child’s teacher, please do so, but keep the interactions during arrival time to a short visit.

***2nd Grade Parents***—I would suggest that you try to implement walking to just the 2nd grade hallway or to the four-way and letting your child make their way to their classroom by themselves. They can do it!!!

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**Sickness**

I am also sending this memo out to reiterate our fever/sickness policy. If your child has been sent home from school, or if they have a fever at home, they need to be fever free for 24 hours before you send them back to school. Some students who have been sent home, or have had a fever within the past 24 hours, are being sent back to school before this time because they no longer have fever. Be mindful that other students are being exposed to illness when this happens. We will be making phone calls and asking for students to be picked up if this policy is not adhered to. I know that having a sick child, and having other job responsibilities, is a difficult thing to manage. For the general welfare of the rest of the student body, we ask that everyone abide by this policy, make arrangements for your student to not come back to school until they are fully well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school, 633-5334.

Sincerely,

Mr. Armstrong

Principal, McQuerry Elementary