As we move toward the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, here is a never-too-early back-to-school guide for our new Explore Academy families! On behalf of the staff and students at Explore Academy, I want to personally welcome all of you to *our* family! This guide will be updated throughout the spring and summer as new information is added and dates are set.

ENROLLMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

Enrollment at Explore Academy starts with the interest form, found on our website. At the conclusion of each month, depending on the student's grade, he or she will receive an acceptance letter or, if a lottery exists for that particular grade level, a report on the student's position on the waiting list for that grade level.

Once a student is accepted, they may enroll via the link on the acceptance letter. By completing that online enrollment form, students and families are committing to their enrollment for the fall of 2019.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

For those families that have gone through the enrollment process (described above) student accounts will be set up and ready for distribution at the course catalog night (see below). Students will use this account to access course registration links, lunch ordering forms each week, email, etc.

COURSE CATALOG NIGHT

In mid-July (date TBD), we will be holding our course catalog night where all students (new and old) come together as we look forward to the new school year. The event will take place in the auditorium at UNM Continuing Education (1634 University Blvd NE). On that night, we will be handing out course catalogs to every student, as well as student account information including parent gradebook accounts. We will cover the catalog and its contents, and provide a basic overview for scheduling classes. Our online scheduling system will open for all students in grades 9-12 to choose classes at the beginning of August, so students will have approximately 2-3 weeks to plan their schedules.

SCHEDULING HELP SESSIONS

For those students that may need help with scheduling, we will provide some help sessions between the catalog night and the start of school. These sessions will take place on Mondays at Explore Academy.

ORIENTATION

As we move into August, we will be holding an orientation event for new students where they can come to know our Explore Academy system to a greater level, and to meet other new students in the process. This will include jumpstart days for our incoming 6th graders and 9th graders (and our new 7th grade class this year as well)

ORDERING SCHOOL APPAREL

We will be adjusting our student store to small sizes to accommodate our new middle school population. The new store website will be updated in the next several weeks so parents may start ordering apparel. Student apparel will be ready for distribution at the course catalog night or an orientation (apparel is delivered to school and not to student homes).

DOCUMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT

At both the catalog night and orientation, we will be accepting the above documents from parents as needed. In addition to completing the online enrollment form, families will need to provide the following documents to finalize enrollment, as required by law:

- Birth certificate (copy)
- Updated immunization records
- Transcripts (if transferring from another high school)
- IEP (if applicable – please email them directly to our special education director, Ms. Daniele Knee: knee@exploreacademy.org)

PLACEMENT TESTS

All incoming students in grades 10-12 will take placement tests for math and English. For those students in grades 6, 7, and 9 who would like to test above grade level in math and/or English, we will offer a similar set of placement tests. Placement testing will occur in July.

CHROMEBOOK

It's also time to start thinking about ordering student Chromebooks. As part of their enrollment, every student will need a Chromebook as a required supply at Explore Academy. We recommend families read review on sites like Amazon.com before purchasing. If you need any recommendation, please feel free to email me or our IT director, Mr. Ramsey (ramsey@exploreacademy.org).

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation routes will be updated by early July as we gather more student addresses.