



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Your child is about to embark on a wonderful scholastic journey at Masterman! To help get you started, what follows is a collection of helpful tips and suggestions compiled by the Masterman Home & School Orientation Committee that we hope you will find useful.

**Good luck to both you and your child!**

### **Planner / Agenda**

Masterman students are required to purchase a JR Masterman Action Agenda each school year—known by students as the, “planner” and by teachers as the “agenda.” The planner costs \$5.00 and is used by students to maintain their class schedule and keep track of homework assignments, tests, projects and papers (and to generally become organized individuals!). The planner also includes the Parent Student Handbook. Many parents overlook this feature of the planner, so be sure to watch out for this important academic tool in September.

### **School Supplies**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students:

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| ○ 13 pocket accordion portfolio          | ○ Transparent protractor                 |
| ○ Erasable pens – blue or black, and red | ○ Calculator (basic fraction calculator) |
| ○ Colored pencils                        | ○ Cloth pencil case                      |
| ○ Pencil sharpener                       | ○ Loose leaf paper                       |
| ○ Transparent ruler                      | ○ Box of facial tissues                  |

5<sup>th</sup> grade only: ○ ½ inch three ring binder

6<sup>th</sup> grade only: ○ 2 graph paper notebooks  
 ○ 2 marble composition books  
 ○ Flashdrive

At home supplies: Stapler, tape, glue, colored paper, post-its, dictionary

**Please note** that individual teachers may provide more specific supply lists in September that may include other items.

### **Masterman ID Number**

Students entering the Phila. School District (PSD) for the first time will be issued a temporary ID number. Their permanent ID number will be printed on their report cards. PSD students will continue to use the same ID number from their former school. Please encourage your child to memorize their ID number.

**Special Education / Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

Students with an IEP who enroll at Masterman from another school within the Phila. School District (PSD) may have no transitional issues; however, if your child has an IEP and came from a school outside of the PSD you will need to make the IEP known to the Masterman administration to be sure your child continues to receive the services they need—even if your child’s IEP was noted on their application to Masterman.

**MG (Mentally Gifted Program)**

Students who enroll at Masterman and who were designated MG in their previous school will maintain that MG status at Masterman. Additionally, all 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders are *automatically* enrolled in MG and will participate in weekly MG classes. **Please note that due to budget cuts, the offerings may vary from years past.** In 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students must have their MG status verified to continue in MG Program. Parents who would like their child tested for MG should send a request to Ms. Nicholson, the Assistant Principal (main office number is 215-299-4661). There is typically a backlog of students to be tested so it may take around a year for the testing to be completed. Some parents are perfectly happy with their child not being tested for MG and not participating in MG classes—the school is naturally a very enriching environment.

**School District Communications**

All parents with a child in the Phila. School District (PSD) should automatically receive emails from the PSD and/or (more likely) recorded phone messages.

**Masterman School Communications**

Communications from Masterman to parents is done via email by the Home & School Assoc. (HSA). These periodic HSA emails include information about school events, meetings, fundraisers, & other important school issues. In order to receive these emails, complete the HSA membership form, which is available at school meetings, Orientation, and via the HSA website: [www.mastermanhsa.com](http://www.mastermanhsa.com). HSA membership is voluntary, and a donation is NOT required, however, the HSA emails are your only line of communication for information coming from the school. Note that your membership is not complete until you receive and reply to a confirming email from Campaigner.com. The school will also occasionally place recorded telephone messages to the students’ homes when important issues arise.

**HSA Volunteer Committees**

Volunteering on a HSA committee is a great way to get involved at Masterman, meet other parents and generally make the school an even better place! From the HSA’s website, click on the "*HSA Committees, Reports, & Forms*" tab for more information on the various fundraising, social, and service committees that you could join. Get involved!

**Gym Uniforms**

Students are required to purchase a gym uniform which can be done directly from your child's gym teacher, at the beginning of the school year. The gym teacher will inform your child about the cost. Gym uniforms must be brought and/or worn to every gym class. With that in mind, it might be helpful to have an extra uniform on hand.

**Breakfast**

A free breakfast is available for all students Monday – Friday beginning at 7:30 am until 8:10 am.

**Lunch**

During their assigned lunch period, students may either buy lunch or bring their own. Payment for lunch is cash only. Parents can pay for lunches in advance, establishing a 'line of credit' for their children. In the lunch line, students must enter their student ID number into a keypad to 'purchase' lunch. If a credit exists, the student will then be permitted to 'purchase' lunch, and their account will be debited accordingly. Students who qualify under Federal guidelines may apply for free or reduced price lunches. A form will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Your form from the previous school year should be good until October.

**Important Fall Dates**

- **Back to School Night**—Thursday September 20th 6:30pm
- **New Parent Coffee Hour**—Café L'Aube, 17th & Wallace (2 blocks from school!) Friday September 28th 7:45am—*stop by after dropping your child off at school in the morning to meet other new parents as well as Orientation Committee members on hand to answer questions and share experiences, not to mention enjoy some great coffee!*
- **Family Dinner**—October 17th. *A great opportunity to meet other families in the Masterman Community.*

**School Map**

- Because we ourselves find the school building a bit confusing at times, we have included a little map of the building as a part of this tip sheet which highlights some spaces relevant to new students. We hope you find it useful.

**The Masterman Home and School Orientation Committee hopes that you and your child have an easy adjustment into the Masterman community and we wish you much success and fulfillment in the coming years!**

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*This 'Fall Tip Sheet' was compiled by the Masterman Home and School Association's 'Orientation Committee'. Please reference our "Parent-to-Parent Tip Sheet"—issued at the Spring Orientation for additional tips. These documents are works in progress. We have made every attempt to be accurate and forthcoming and we are open to corrections, additions, clarifications, and other suggestions to make this a useful tool for new Masterman parents. Contact: Kim Seibert, Committee Chair: [seibert@comcast.net](mailto:seibert@comcast.net). Good Luck from The Masterman Orientation Committee: Kim Seibert, Anne Dubuisson Anderson & Susan Feenan. Special thanks to outgoing Chair Susan Zingale-Baird for her vision in creating this document!*