

GROVE PATTERSON ACADEMY E-NEWSLETTER



Herneika L. Johnson-Principal ~Ardelia Shuler-Freeman-Counselor ~ Karen Bowman-Secretary

August 23, 2021

Welcome Back to school! I am very excited to start a new school year and for the opportunity to work with your child and you. As crazy as this year has already started out, I believe we owe it to our children to provide them with a great education. Rest assured that GPA faculty and staff are committed to thriving together as a community.

As always I am available to talk! Do not hesitate to reach out!

Mrs. J.

Back to School Information

The **first day of school for Pre-School** will be on a phase in schedule. Scholars whose last names begin with A-M will attend school today Monday, August 23rd. Scholars whose last names begin with N-Z will attend school tomorrow Tuesday, August 24th. **These are full days of school.** The 1st Full Day of Pre-School **for everyone** will be on Wednesday, August 25th.

The **first day of school for Kindergarten** is Friday, August 27th. This is a full day of instruction. Kindergarten screenings will take place beginning Wednesday, August 18th. Parents will receive a reminder email as the date you selected draws closer. It is important that you are not late for your scheduled appointment. If you are late, you will be asked to reschedule. Kindergarten scholars should return their Kindergarten Summer Work packets no later than Friday, September 3rd. They can also be dropped off during Open House. Be sure their name is clearly visible on the packet and placed in a Large Ziplock bag.

The doors open at 7:55 a.m. and students are dismissed beginning with all bus riders at 2:25 p.m. Scholars are marked late if they are not in their classrooms by 8:10 a.m. The district has notified us that **breakfast will not be served in the building. This information is subject to change. Therefore, no students with the exception of bus riders will be able to enter the building before 7:55 a.m.** Your scholar will be asked to return to your vehicle. If you would like for your scholar to receive breakfast they will be sent home in take home bags. You must contact the school at 419.671.3350 to submit your request or complete the form that was sent home on the first day of school. You can also email your request to Heather Stover at hstover@tps.org. With your request, please submit your child's name, room number, and teacher name.

Transportation Updates

Thanks for your patience during arrival and dismissal. Both are going extremely smooth after working out the regular first week kinks. The district is experiencing tremendous delays with transportation. This is of no fault with Karen or the school. I am meeting with transportation several times during the week to get updates and to fix the errors. If you are experiencing errors, it is important that you stay in constant communication with Karen. We appreciate your patience as we work through these issues.

Parent Teacher Conferences-October 27 and 28th

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held at GPA on Wednesday October 27th from 3-6 p.m. and on Thursday, October 28th from 9:00-7:00 p.m. These conferences will be held in person unless you request a virtual conference with your child's teacher. You can begin signing up at www.myconferencetime.com/gpaconferences. Scroll down to find your child's teacher and select the time that works best for you. Grades 6-8 you can select each subject area since we departmentalize by subject area. Grade 5 will select Maas/Courtney who will hold the conferences together.

Background Checks

We appreciate your interest in volunteering your time with our students - either as a parent, a community member, or in coordination with one of our valued community partners. Toledo Public Schools aims to produce competitive college and career ready graduates, and we will not succeed without partners like you!

TPS offers a variety of activities you may choose from when volunteering your time. **Simply complete and submit a Volunteer application and upon approval you will receive instructions on next steps.** It is very important that the **information you enter on the application matches your government issued identification card** including your full legal name. It is important that you **provide a valid email address** so you can be notified as to the status of your application and for future communication. All information collected on the application will remain confidential and not be shared outside the volunteer program.

If you have any questions about the application, please call 419-671-0410 or email volunteer@tps.org.

Thank you,

TPS Community Liaison

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NTI3OTplbi1VUw==>

Lunch

Lunch times will be as follows:

K-10:30-11:05

7/8 11:00-11:30

3/4 11:40-12:10

5/6 12:20-12:50

1/2 1:00-1:30

No outside lunches can be dropped off if a lunch is forgotten. Students will receive a school lunch. Additionally, no lunches can be ordered/delivered through apps such as Uber Eats, etc.

Lunch menus are available on the GPA App and the Toledo Public Schools website. www.tps.org. This weeks lunch menu will differ from what has been posted due to issues outside of our control. Feel free to email Ms. Heather at hstover@tps.org if you would like to know the menu this week.

MASK POLICY

Due to a substantial increase of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lucas County, Toledo Public Schools will now require all students and staff members - regardless of vaccination status - to wear face masks/coverings during the school or workday. This new directive impacts all district schools and offices. This precautionary step is being taken, along with other preventative measures, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community and will remain in effect until further notice.

GPA scholars will need to wear masks on their first day of school. Masks can be of any color but must be free from words/phrases/pictures that could be considered offensive. The principal has the final say in whether it is acceptable.

News from the School Counselor

Starting A New School Year.....Helping Your Child Overcome Feelings Of Anxiety

Returning to or starting at a new school may cause your child to feel anxious. Therefore, your child may need help managing their new schedule. As a parent, you can ease your child's anxiety by modeling confidence and calm behavior, also by imposing structure in the family life (mealtime, homework, and bedtime routines, etc.) Talk with your child about his/her feelings and let them know it's natural to feel anxious. Start off the school year establishing and maintaining open communication with your child's teacher to ensure your child's concerns and mental health needs are being addressed. If your child shows signs of extreme anxiety and has unusual difficulties in school, you should immediately discuss your concerns with child's teacher.

Following are a few tips to help your child if they experience anxiety about returning to school:

- Help and encourage them to think of ways that will make going back to school easier for them. For example: Suggest they pack a special snack or talk with someone who is in their class before school starts.
- Ask "What they like about school?" Also, talk about good memories they shared from the previous school year.
- Find out if they're worried about anything regarding returning to school. If they are, be open, honest and discuss their fears. Talk about ways to help them overcome their fears.
- Practice morning and evening routines
- Plan extra time to leave in the morning
- Get everything in order ahead of time
- Reach out to others for support

Pick Up-Drop Off Information

Pick up and drop off should occur in the designated areas. Parents who prefer to walk their scholar or pick up their scholar from/to their respective doors must park in a designated parking spot. **DO NOT PARK IN THE CAR/BUS LOOP.** You will be asked to move. Feel free to park at the library and walk over. To ensure the safety of everyone, parents are also asked not to allow their students to walk in the parking lot unattended. Thank you for your understanding.

If your child is a bus rider and will change their method of transportation home from school, a note must be submitted. If a note is not sent in, they will be sent home via bus. No exceptions. It is important to make sure your scholar and your child's teacher know how they will be getting home the first week of

school. Kindergarten-3rd grade parents should put a bus tag directly on their scholars' book bag. If your child will be attending the YMCA, please be sure to notify your child's teacher.

Bussing Information

We are excited to announce that you have access to a new smartphone app that helps to improve communication, school bus safety, and efficiency. The Transportation Portal (aka Edulog Parent Portal) app provides you with planned time and location information for your child's bus ride to school. On a daily basis, the app will show you the GPA location of the bus and send you a push notification when it is nearing your bus stop.

The app is free of charge for our parents, caregivers, and students. In addition to displaying the location of your bus and sending the notifications, you can also receive time sensitive messages from our transportation department. You will also receive notification when a substitute bus is running your route due to scheduled maintenance on your regular bus, for example.

The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store-either of which can be accessed by pointing your smartphone camera at this QR code:

Additional information about using Transportation Portal (aka Edulog Parent Portal) is available on our website at: https://www.tps.org/departments/transportation_services. If you have additional questions regarding the app, please contact our transportation department at: 419-671-8541.

If you would like to request bus transportation for the 2021-2022 school or make changes to your current stop, it is imperative that you contact Karen in the Main Office at 419.671.3350 as soon as possible. Any additions/changes could potential take 1-3 weeks.

Currently there is an approximate 2 week wait on new bus requests/changes.

EHSO Grade (Grades 7-8)

We still have space in our Algebra Honors, Band, Orchestra, and Choir EHSO classes for the 21/22 school year. (Our finance class is full). If you are interested in your scholar taking EHSO classes, please contact the school counselor Ardelia Shuler-Freeman ASAP for enrollment paperwork. She can be reached at ashulerf@tps.org. The first day for EHSO is August 24, 2021.

Gifted Information (Grades 5-7)/Enrichment Grade 4

The gifted program offers Enrichment, English Language Arts, and Math daily to GPA scholars identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking, math, and reading. Scholars ride a bus from GPA to DeVilbis to attend morning gifted classes and bussed back for lunch, science social studies, PE, art, music, and Spanish Monday-Friday. Gifted begins on Tuesday, August 24th.

Enrichment classes will be held once per week for our scholars identified as gifted in grade 4. Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 14th at Start High School. 4th grade parent meetings for eligible students will be held the week of August 30th in the evening. More information for eligible students will be sent directly to parents. If you have any questions, you can reach Diana Jones-Manley the Senior Director of Advanced Academics at 419.671.8935 or at djonesma@tps.org.

Picture Day-Monday, August 30, 2021

Picture Day is scheduled for Monday, August 30th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Package costs range from \$59 dollars to \$15 dollars. You can also choose Add-Ons as well. All students are expected to be in dress code for Picture Day. Picture Order forms will be sent home the first day of school. Online orders can be placed at www.mylifetouch.com. Our Picture Day ID is: EVT9Q7QGP.

District Testing

The district will be utilizing I-Ready for our District Wide Assessments. It is imperative that scholars understand the important of this testing. Testing will take place in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. The first assessment will be given 9/15-9/30 in Reading (K-8) and Math (2-8). Mark this date on your calendars to ensure your scholar is in school and prepared to test on that day.

Parent Portal/Google Classroom

The Parent Portal gives parents and guardians access to pertinent student information such as attendance records, class schedule, class work, report cards and transcripts. You can access the site by clicking on this link: <https://parentportal.tps.org> under the Registration Section. If any of these items need to be updated, we ask that you contact Karen in the main office. If you have questions, view the parent portal guidelines and questions:

[PARENT PORTAL USER GUIDE - UPDATED](#)

[PARENT PORTAL USER GUIDE \(SPANISH\)](#)

[FAMILY APP DIRECTIONS](#)

All assignments for the 2021-2022 school year for grades 3-8 will be posted through a digital format. This may be done by a Google Site, Google Classroom, or Parent Portal. Your scholars' teacher will verify what format they intend to use. This will take the place of a formal agenda book that we have used in the past. It is your responsibility (as stated in the Parent Contract Agreement) to ensure all assignments that are posted have been completed and returned. We have found that often times our wonderful children will tell the parent it is done but in actuality, it is not and a blank assignment turned in. You want to check and verify it is completed and accurate.

PTO Information

PTO Meetings will take place on the following dates from 6:15-7:30 p.m. These dates may be a combination of in-person and virtually through Facebook Live. Parents will receive (1) volunteer hour for attending. 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 1/10, 2/14, 3/21, 5/5.

Our PTO Board is as follows:

Tish May-President

Sara Marshall-Vice President

Amanda Lute- Secretary

Stacie Moss-Treasurer

Julie Apt-Parent Congress

Alanna Paully-Webmaster

Spanish School Supply List

Hello GPA parents! By now I have met all of your children in my classes and I have noticed that there was a miscommunication on my part about what resources your students need for Spanish class. All students must have a spiral notebook and folder that is specific to Spanish class. The rest of the

materials that they need will be supplies that are already required for the school year such as pencils, glue sticks, scissors, and erasers. As for the popsicle sticks and the index cards I asked for, I will be keeping those materials in my classroom so that I can pass them out when we need to use them in class activities. If you would like to donate those items to my classroom, it would be greatly appreciated!

-Mrs. Flores"

Forms

We are still in need of the beginning of the year forms. Please be sure to return those ASAP. Congrats to Mrs. Ellis' class who earned a dress down day this Friday for having all their forms returned.

YMCA After-School Care

If you are interested in your scholar receiving YMCA after school care, you can contact Rachele Wells they can email me at rachellewells@ymcatoledo.org or call me at 419-214-1875.

Communication

It is very important that we stay connected. Please make sure that the front office has your most current contact information on file. Please make sure you read all your emails and follow us on social media. Listed below are different ways you can stay connected with Grove Patterson Academy.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Phone: 419.671.3350 Fax: 419.671.3395

3020 Marvin Avenue

Toledo, Ohio 43606

Teacher's Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:55am – 2:45 pm.

Teachers are teaching throughout the school day. They may not be able to respond to questions until they have a break. Teachers will offer office hours during the week. These times can be located on the teacher's google classroom page.

Questions submitted after 3:00 p.m. may not be answered until the next school day. We will try to return most messages within 24 hours.

School E-mail

See <https://www.grovepattersonpto.org/staff-directory>

School Website

<https://www.grovepattersonpto.org/>

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GrovePattersonPTO/>

GPA Communication/App.

Download the Grove Patterson Academy App in your App store.

District Communication

Download the Toledo Public Schools App in your App store.

Weekly Newsletter

Every Monday, parents will receive the weekly parent newsletter via GPA App. It will also be posted online via our website. This newsletter contains important updates, school and district information, educational resources (link), and information about upcoming events, training, and workshops.

STOCK THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Thanks for everyone who donated for Stock the Teacher's Lounge. The last day to donate is this Friday, August 23, 2021. We are accepting donations at this time of drinks, cookies, nuts, etc. If you would like to donate, you can drop the donations off at any time 8:00-3:00 p.m. You can receive (1) volunteer hour for every \$10 donated up to 3 hours.

Dates to Remember:

8/23 1st Day of School for Pre-School (A-M)
8/24 1st Day of School for Pre-School (N-Z)
8/24 EHSO Begins
8/25 1st Day of School for Pre-School
8/27 1st Day of School for Kindergarten (Full Day)
8/30 Picture Day
9/6 No School Labor Day
9/8 Success for All Begins
9/24 Wear Pink Day \$1.00
