

GROVE PATTERSON ACADEMY E-NEWSLETTER



Open House Revised Time Tuesday, August 17, 2021 6:00-7:00 p.m.

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

August 1, 2021

Good day and Welcome Back, Grove Patterson Academy Parents and Guardians, The faculty and staff are excited to be back in the building doing what they truly love to do, educate. Below is some information that will assist you as we navigate this process together for the 2021-2022 school year. There have been a few staff changes this year therefore please welcome our new staff to the building:

Angela Francis-Grade 4 (replacing Mrs. Houser who is the new SFA Facilitator)

Marsha Webley-Grade 6 (She has accepted another position in the district. We are looking to hire another staff member ASAP)

Joshua Petree-Music (Replacing Sandra Spotts who retired in May)

Louise Karpinski-Art (Replacing Barb Cairl who retired in May)

Elena Flores-Whiting-Spanish

Cindy Shanahorn-Early Childhood Family Support Coordinator

Back to School Information

The **first day of school** for all Scholars in grades 1-8 is Wednesday, August 18th. This is a half day of school. Bus riders will be released starting at 10:30 a.m. No car riders will be released until all busses have left the bus loop. I thank you in advance for your patience.

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 on Monday, August 23rd. Scholars whose last names begin with N-Z will attend school on Tuesday, August 24th. The 1st Full Day of Pre-School 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. As of this newsletter breakfast will be served in the building starting at 7:40 a.m. If your student will not eat breakfast, they are to remain in the car until 7:55 a.m. This is subject to change based on information put forward by the district.

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.

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.

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.

Chromebooks/Earpods/Headphones

Students in grades 3-12 will be 1:1 take home. Students who have Chromebooks should return those to school during Open House or the very latest the first day of school. New Forms will need to be completed. Students in grades Pre-K-2 will have access to shared Chromebooks within the school.

We have requested all students purchase their own set of earbuds or headphones to keep in the building. These can be purchased at most local dollar stores or places such as Walmart/Target. We have a limited number of headphones, however due to Covid-19 we would like to hand these out on a limited basis.

Dress Code

There have been no changes to the school dress code for the 2021-2022 school year. Last year we made a few exceptions due to students moving from Virtual to in person learning. It is important that parents review the current dress code with their scholar. The dress code **will be enforced beginning on day one**. The dress code can be found on the GPA App under 2021-2022 Forms and Resources as well as www.grovepattersonpto.org.

Parent Agreement

A reminder that all parents must sign the Annual GPA Parent Agreement. Failure to return this document will result in the removal of your scholar from GPA. This GPA Agreement details the Parent/Guardians role in their scholars learning at GPA.

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 Start High School 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 the week of September 13th. 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.

Updated Contacts

It is imperative that you have updated contact information listed in SunGuard. You can review this information via Parent Portal. If you must make changes, contact Karen in the main office.

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

School Supply List

The GPA School Supply List can be found on the GPA App under 2021-2022 Forms and Resources. It can also be found on our website at www.grovecampertsonpto.org. Students can drop off their school supplies during Open House.

School Attendance Guidelines

Toledo Public Schools is in session five, full-days a week. With that in mind, students are expected to participate in daily educational activities and attendance will be taken every day for all of our students.

School Notification to Parents - An automated call will be made daily to parents/guardians to inform them if their child was marked absent for that day.

Parent Notification to School - Parents/Guardians should notify school personnel whenever their child(ren) is unable to attend school for the day. This can be done by phone call, delivering a letter/note to the main office, and/or email. Parents should contact teacher(s) to make arrangements for students to complete the assignment(s) that they may have missed due to their absence. Students have 24-hours to make up any missing assignments after an absence.

Excused Absences - If your child, or someone in the household, is sick and the illness is COVID-related, please notify your school and keep in regular contact with your school about return to school guidance from your student's health care provider and/or the Toledo Lucas County Health Department.

Forms

Each scholar will receive a copy of beginning of the year forms during Open House or the first day of school. It is imperative that we receive these forms back as soon as possible. You can drop them off at the school between 8:00-3:00 p.m. daily or return those with your scholar. You can also find additional forms on our website in order to submit them via fax or email. The first two classes that return all designated forms will receive a Dress Down Day.

Lunch Application

You will receive the 2021-2022 Free and Reduced Lunch Application. As you know, all students are eligible for Free Lunch/Breakfast this year through a Grant the district received several years ago. Although all of our students are eligible for free lunch, we are required to have a lunch application on file. The implications of not returning this form is that we are in jeopardy of losing over \$30,000 in funding for our school next year. This funding pays for professional development for our teachers, after school tutoring, parental involvement activities, camp transportation, Chromebook technology, agenda books, and so many others activities and resources. In order to avoid losing this funding, we are asking that you complete the application and return to the school immediately even if you feel you will not qualify. This information is strictly confidential and does not remain in the building. You can drop off this form along with your other forms at the main office anytime. To make sure you are eligible, please email these forms back to mnagley@tps.org in the Food Service department:

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.grovettpersonpto.org/staff-directory>

School Website

<https://www.grovettpersonpto.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.

Title I Parent's Right to Now

As a parent/guardian with a student participating in a Title I funded program run by supported by Toledo Public School, you have the right to know the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires that any local school district receiving Title I funds must provide the following information to parents/guardians who ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher: • Whether the teacher has met the Ohio teacher licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides your child instruction. • Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or temporary status that waives state licensing requirements. • The undergraduate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification (such as National Board Certification) held by the teacher and the field of discipline of certification or degree. • Whether your child is provided services by instructional paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. *All requests must be made in writing and should include the following information:* student's full name, legal parent/guardian's full name, address, city, state, zip code and teacher's name. Your request can be sent to the Toledo Board of Education, Human Resources Department.

STOCK THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE

We will once again like to Stock the Teacher's Lounge. Thank you to everyone that was able to donate to help stock the teacher's lounge with goodies and snacks last year. It was a tremendous success. 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:

8/17 Open House 6:00-7:00

8/18 1st Day of School Grades 1-8

8/19 Pre-school Orientation

8/20 Pre-school Orientation
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
