

GROVE PATTERSON ACADEMY E-NEWSLETTER



Spirit Wear will be in any day!

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

September 6, 2021

Happy Labor Day to everyone! I hope everyone had a restful long weekend! Can you believe we are already 3 weeks in to the school year? Our scholars seem to be settling in quite well understanding the routines and procedures and working extremely hard. I cannot thank everyone enough for allowing us to educate your child. As always do not hesitate to reach out!

Mrs. J.

COVID PROTOCOLS

It is extremely important that you assess your child every morning before arriving to school. If your child has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home. You should contact Nurse G. for further guidance:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle, body aches, head aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Close contact (within 6 feet for 15+ minutes) with someone who has a confirmed case of Covid-19 or someone who has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19.

If your child has any of these symptoms upon arriving to school they will be sent home.

ALICE Drills

Over the next two weeks teachers will be preparing your scholar for an ALICE Training Drill. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. These drills are a requirement through the Ohio Department of Education. We will hold an announced drill on Thursday, September 9th at 9:00 a.m. It is important that you discuss these scenarios with your student prior to this event occurring. I wish this was something that we did not have to do, but the reality is that we must be as prepared as possible in case an emergency occurs. Our teachers have been provided with a book title "I'm not Scared, I'm

Prepared". I am attaching a copy of the youtube video link if you would like to review this video with your scholar as well. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4vmSsgkhHc>
Keep in mind our 2nd drill will be unannounced.

News for Success for All~Mrs. Houser



All students in grades 1 - 6 have been reading out loud for 20 minutes a day to an adult and writing their Read and Responds for a few weeks now. Each day their teacher will check in their Read and Respond and make sure there is an adult's signature. Your child's teacher should be receiving feedback from the teacher as to how they are doing. Mrs. Johnson and I are going to be checking the Read and Responds randomly throughout the year to make sure that the students are writing complete, detailed sentences about the book.

The goal of completing the 20 minute reading part of the read and respond is that we want your child to be a fluent reader. The read and respond supports your child in achieving the goal of being a fluency reader. Please sit with your child when they read. It is very easy for a child to replace words while reading if you're not sitting there monitoring your child. If your child is having difficulty writing the sentences after the 20 minutes of reading, break it into 4 - 5 minute sessions of reading. After each 5 minutes have your child write.

Students in Grades 1 -6 received their reading group placement this week as we will start reading on Wednesday, September 9. Look for a letter coming home tomorrow letting you know who your child's teacher is. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at khouser@tps.org or by calling Grove Patterson Academy at 419-671-3350.

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-Updated with new link

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==>

You can also find it on our website following this link: https://www.tps.org/discover_tps/news/new_volunteer_application_now_available

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a few of our awesome parents to serve on our Parent Panel this school year. We meet for an hour and a half each month to review any students that have been referred to our Parent Panel. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you are interested in serving, please send me an email at hjohnson@tps.org.

Over the next several weeks you will receive an email regarding how to track your volunteer hours. This email will come from Track-It-Forward. I hope to have this completed by the end of September. All volunteer hours will be tracked this way. A reminder all families must have 10 hours per family per year.

Lunch

Lunch times will be as follows:

K-10:30-11:05

7/8 11:05-11:35

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. We apologize for this inconvenience.

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. We do have a few extra masks in the building, however it is expected that parents ensure their child has a mask every day.

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.

**New

We have a lot of parents parking and getting out of their vehicle along the fence area and in the pick up lane during p.m. pick up. This is not a designated parking area. **If you plan to get out of your vehicle you must park in a parking spot.** Please inform anyone that will be picking up your child.

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 potentially take 1-3 weeks.

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

Gifted Information/Enrichment Grade 4

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-Re-Takes Monday, October 4th

District/State Testing

The district will be utilizing I-Ready for our District Wide Assessments. It is imperative that scholars understand the importance 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.

3rd Grade Students will be taking the Ohio State Reading Assessment on Monday, October 18th. It is important that your child be in attendance and on time on that day. Please re-schedule any upcoming appointments you have planned. You will receive more information as we come closer to that day and time.

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"

[YMCA After-School Care](#)

If you are interested in your scholar receiving YMCA after school care, you can contact Rachelle 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.

Dates to Remember:

9/8 Success for All Begins

9/9 ALICE Drill 9:00 a.m.

9/14 4th Grade Enrichment Begins *Pre-Identified Students only

9/21 Interims Mailed Home

9/23 Parent Panel Meeting

9/24 Wear Pink Day \$1.00 (Dress Down Day for All Students)

10/4 Picture Re-Takes

10/15 2-Hour Delay End of Quarter 1

10/18 3rd Grade Ohio State Reading Assessment

10/21 Parent Panel Meeting

10/27-10/28 Parent Teacher Conferences (No School on 10/28 for Students)

10/29 No School
