

QUARTERS 3

March 2023



# OTTER OUTREACH!

## From the Principal



Dear ORE Families,

Spring is approaching and learning is in full swing here at Ottawa River. As you may know, this is a time of year that students make the most academic and social learning improvements. Make school a priority. Very soon the weather will change with spring right around the corner. It can be challenging to keep our children focused on learning. What can you do to make school a top priority for your child? Keep these ideas in mind: Make attendance your number one priority. Let your child know that unless they are sick, they must attend school (and be on time.) Make an effort to schedule appointments after school hours. Show you care. Talk about school activities and projects. Look at homework and other papers your children bring home. Remain positive. Try to set a positive example for your child, even when your own day has been challenging. If you show a positive attitude about your work, your child may feel better about their own. We have many fun activities for March all around Reading so there should be many fun things to talk about at the end of each day.

Testing will begin at the end of March and continue when we return from Spring Break. We are so proud of our students who try their best each day and are an active participant in their schooling! They are showing great growth. Help your child stay focused with a healthy breakfast and a good night's rest. We are all one community who need to work together to create a positive environment for our students and each other. Should you ever need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Educationally yours,  
Mrs. Griffin

4747 290th Street  
Toledo, Ohio

Phone 419-671-6350

Attendance 419-671-6351

Fax 419-671-6395

**Tamra Griffin**

**Principal**

[tgriffin@tps.org](mailto:tgriffin@tps.org)

**Eric Urban**

**Assistant Principal**

[eurban@tps.org](mailto:eurban@tps.org)

**Megan Kronovich**

**Counselor**

[mkronovi@tps.org](mailto:mkronovi@tps.org)

**Tracy Cook**

**Secretary**

[tcCook@tps.org](mailto:tcCook@tps.org)

**Vicki Cobb-Boes**

**Nurse**

[vcobbboe@tps.org](mailto:vcobbboe@tps.org)



### Important dates

March 1st—High School Night 6:30—7:30

March 17th—2 Hour Delay

OTTAWA RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March  
Newsletter

# Counselor Corner

## March 2023

### How to involve you Child in Choosing a High School

As your child grows, they start to discover what they enjoy and they start to think about future careers. With so many High School options out there, it is important to sit down with your children and discuss what they want. Involving your child in in the high school selection process can lead to better decisions and stronger outcomes.

By encouraging your child to have a voice and express their wants and needs you are allowing them to make a decision that will have a real, daily impact on their lives.

Here are several good ways to draw children into conversation and ensure that the ongoing discussion is productive as your family looks at options.

**Tour School Together** - School tours allow you to see facilities and meet teachers, but they also provide a natural time to discuss needs and wants, compare school offerings and exchange viewpoints. In short, it's a good way to start a conversation about which school is the best fit, and then keep that conversation going.

**Keep discussions Focused** - Eighth graders can be influenced by many of the things they see as they explore different schools, from the size of the athletic facility to the food in the cafeteria. Not all of it is relevant. Remind your teen that their opinions should be informed and not base on the views of others.

**Schedule a 'Shadow Day'** – Many schools allow eighth graders to spend a day at the school, observing classes, talking to students and touring the facilities. This is a great way for teens to get a good look at life in a particular high school.

TPS has so many options for HS for your students and it is never too early to start thinking about HS, it will be here before you know it. Not only do our High Schools have career tech programs, TPS also offers Magnet Schools! Toledo Early College was voted the #1 Magnet school in Ohio! Scan the QR code to learn more about what TPS has to offer and come to Ottawa River on March 1st to hear Dr. Durant Speak about all the Career Tech and Magnet Schools we have and that are coming! This is open to all grade levels because it's never too early to start talking about your child's future!

Megan Kronovich  
[mkronovi@tps.org](mailto:mkronovi@tps.org)  
419-671-6350



# NURSE'S CORNER

---

## When to Keep Sick Kids at Home

Toledo Public Schools is dedicated to keeping our students healthy and in school.

Parents and guardians are our partners in health and we have provided some guidelines for when to keep your ill child home. We have returned to Pre-COVID Guidelines and it is not always easy to tell if a child should stay home. We also understand that a child that may appear only mildly ill in the morning can become too sick to stay at school as the day goes on.

Our communicable disease guidelines are in place to keep your child and all of our students healthy. Here are some guidelines to consider before sending your child to school:

Keep your child at home if the student has a:

Fever: greater than 100 F and remain at home until free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, i.e. Tylenol (acetaminophen), Advil or Motrin (ibuprofen)

Cough: deep or uncontrollable

Vomiting/Diarrhea: remain at home until free of symptoms for 24 hours

Pain: Stomachaches, headaches, earaches, and sore throats should remain at home if the pain is severe enough to interfere with the child's ability to concentrate or be comfortable at school

Rashes: any rash that is wide spread and/or accompanies other symptoms of illness (i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, etc...) should remain at home until seen by a healthcare provider

Pink Eye: very red eyes with drainage should remain at home until seen by a health care provider



## MEDICATION

---

Students who must take medication during the school day must have the appropriate authorization form completed by the doctor. All medications will be dispensed from the office. According to Toledo Public School Board of Education Policy, an adult must bring the child's medicine to the office and the medication must be in the original bottle. We cannot accept medications that are brought in by the child. Please bring in a month's supply of medication at a time. All medications, **PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS** (such as aspirin, antacids, cough syrup, cough drops etc.), require a doctor's form and can only be dispensed through the office!!



# ABSENCES

---

Parents of students who are absent from school can notify the school of the student's absence by leaving a message on the Attendance phone at **419-671-6351**. This recorder is on 24 hours a day, so parents may call at any time. Please be sure to call by 9:30 A.M. on the day of the absence. If a parent does not call and notify the school of their child's absence a written note explaining the absence or tardy must be signed by the parent or guardian and sent to school when the child returns to school. Excused absences are for illness, death in the immediate family, and doctor/dental appointments. If doctor/dental appointments are made during school hours, the child should present a written request for excusal, stating the time of the appointment to the teacher. Students may be released one-half hour before the appointment. Excusals for doctor/dental appointments require written excuse from the doctor/dentist. Students who arrive late or are picked-up early, without a written doctor's excuse, are considered absent for a portion of the day. As a reminder, the state allows a total of 10 unexcused absences a year. Please be sure that you use these days sparingly.



# HAVE YOU MOVED?

---

If you have moved or changed your telephone number, we are asking that you update your records with the school office and provide proof of residency. This will ensure that we will be able to contact you in case of an emergency.



# DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

---

If you ever have questions or concerns about what is going on in your child's classroom please remember to contact their teacher directly. They will BEST know what is going on as they spend the majority of time with your child. If need be, the teacher will direct your questions/concerns to the principal or other necessary personnel. Please do not use Ottawa River's Facebook page as a place to find answers to your personal questions/concerns. For the most accurate and up to date info – call or email your child's teacher directly.



# VISITORS TO OUR BUILDING

---

Parents and other interested persons are always welcome at Ottawa River. Any visitors to the building will be required to comply with the District guidelines as pertaining to masks. Masks must be worn in the building at all times and must fit over the nose and under the chin. To maintain a disruptive free environment all visitors, parents, and guests are required to have an appointment with classroom teachers (even for phone and virtual meetings). On the day of the appointment, for safety purposes, you will be required to report to the office before proceeding to classrooms or other parts of the building. Visitors will be issued a "VISITOR PASS" with their name, destination, and date that they are required to wear. Visits to other parts of the building will require administrative approval and are generally discouraged. Volunteers will be issued a "VOLUNTEER BADGE" which they are required to wear while working in the school as a volunteer. All students, parents, and visitors to the building must enter through the Main entrance and buzz to be let into the building. **Due to increasing security concerns, parents will not be permitted to walk their children to class. If a parent needs to dismiss their child early an ID must be presented.**

## Kroger Community Rewards Sign-Up

---



By making the Ottawa River PTO your Community rewards recipient, a percentage of every shopping trip you make to Kroger will come back to the school!

**Signing up is simple:**

- 1) Sign-in or create an account
- 2) Click on My Account
- 3) Scroll Down to Community Rewards
- 4) Click Edit
- 5) Find our organization (Ottawa River Elementary PTO, Organization Number 80037)

## 2 Hour Delay

---

The 3rd quarter comes to a close on Friday March 17th. There will be a 2 Hour Delay on this day for teachers to work on grades.





## LUNCHES

To ensure that all students are getting the best education they can we will no longer be calling classrooms to inform students of dropped off lunches. If you forgot your child's lunch we will be happy to provide them with a free school lunch. Thank you for helping us to keep our school focus on education.

As a reminder we no longer have an open lunchroom policy. To keep all students safe and lunchtimes running smoothly we ask that if you are volunteering in the building you do not stop to have lunch with your child. Their classmates do not understand and feelings can get hurt.

## Read-A-Thon & Tournament of Books

Information will be coming home about a Read-A-Thon fundraiser that we will be holding during the month of March., so be on the lookout for that.

Also we will be having our own March Madness Tournament called the Tournament of Books. Students will get to vote for their favorite book and the winning books will advance through the tournament , until only one book remains.



## Closing and Delays

It's that time of year again where occasionally it is necessary to close or delay the start of school due to inclement weather. If there is a possibility of severe weather, please tune in to the local television or radio station after 6:00 A.M. If we are closed, it will be announced "Toledo Public Schools are closed." If there is a delay it will say, " Toledo Public Schools are on a two hour delay." A two- hour delay means we will start at 11:00 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m. Morning busses will pick up two hours later than the normal times. Sometimes a two hour delay may change to a closing , so please watch and listen for an update. Please do not call the school for information on closing or delays.

## Snack Cart

Just a reminder that snack cart is usually open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week.



# Ottawa River Sprit Wear

---

Looking for Spirit Wear to help keep you and your family warm?

Check out the Ottawa River Elementary School spirit wear sale. Right now there is Free Shipping on orders over \$75.00 @1stPlaceSpiritwear



## High School Night

---

Parents of all Ottawa River students, please plan to attend our High School Night on Wednesday March 1st to find out all of the options that TPS offers for High School. We will have our Superintendent, Dr. Durant here schools that TPS offers. High School Night will run from 6:30—7:30.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!!!

---

Mar'Sean Payne  
Jace Jones  
Bentley Johnson  
Lucas McElwain  
Aaliyah Sledge  
Dominic Grandowicz  
McKenzie Murphy  
Angela Osley  
Lilyan Pfaff  
Joliah Hardin  
Sophia Boberg  
Trenton McGhee  
Boston Frank  
Emily King  
Kason Dushane  
Sophia Wise

James Dobson  
DaiLenn Ellis  
Kindsley Heighland  
Luc Wolfe  
Maci Mack  
Jaelyn Monk  
Nation Barnett  
Aiden Creswell  
Gracie Faust  
Ava Hamrick  
Rosalie Murphy  
Landon Lawson  
Jackson Lawson  
Caylee-Cleon Pfaff  
Jared Jaquillard  
Nicholas Klatt



**Students**  
**OF THE**  
**MONTH**



# MARCH BIRTHDAYS!!!

---

Colton Ruetz 3/3

Joy Jackson 3/4

Dakota Mierzwiak 3/4

Auston Clark 3/6

Karla Schieb 3/8

Nation Barnett 3/10

Izaak Russell 3/10

Dean Varnes 3/10

Maxwell Varnes 3/10

Connor McCullough 3/11

Krystal Kurtz 3/13

Sophia Boberg 3/15

Noah Gonzalez 3/16

Cheyenne Jackson 3/16

Jeffery Barber Jr. 3/19

Emmalyn Roman 3/19

Ava Moore 3/19

Mateo Castaneda 3/24

Vicente Castaneda 3/24

Wesley Wright 3/24

Dominic Grandowicz 3/26

Remmy Allor-Bishop 3/30

Kaelyn Murphy 3/30

Julia Gilmore 3/31



## **Arrival Routine**

**A note to parents/guardians who will be DRIVING/WALKING their student(s): • Doors open at 8:45 AM. If you arrive early, please remain in your car. We are using multiple entrances this year for student entry, so please use the assigned entries for car riders as indicated below. For our students' and staff members' health and safety, parents may not get out of their vehicles when dropping off or picking up students. • Students will not be permitted to wait in the front lobby before school or enter the building prior to 8:45., unless they are eating breakfast. Students eating breakfast at school will enter through the front doors at 8:40**

### **Arrival Routine for All Students**

#### **Walkers and Car Riders**

#### **Times and Locations:**

In order to minimize traffic congestion, drop-off times and locations will be as follows:

- Kindergarten, First & Second graders will enter main doors by front office
- Pre Kindergarten, Third & Fourth graders will enter the side doors off of 290th. (bus doors)
- Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, & Eighth graders will enter the Jr. High doors near the playground
- When car riders/walkers enter the building, they will proceed on their designated route directly to their classroom. Doing this will help minimize hallway traffic and lead them directly to their home-room.
- 
- All individuals who will be dropping off students (ex: babysitters, siblings, grandparents) must be made aware of these procedures prior to drop-off.
- **Patience and Kindness:** Please remember that we are an elementary school serving young children. Your patience during school arrival is important as we anticipate an increase in car traffic this year.

#### **Bus Riders:**

- **Seating:** Each bus will have a mandatory seating chart with assigned seats. Students will be seated with siblings whenever possible.
- **Drop-Off Location:** Buses will drop off students in designated locations. The bus lane is on 290th street. Bus riders will use the side doors no matter what age group.

## **Dismissal Routine**

Students will be dismissed wearing their mask and must keep it on until they are either in their car or have exited the bus at their final destination. Students should move to their bus or car as quickly and safely as possible, following staff directives and maintaining maximum social distance from their peers and staff.

### **Walkers and Car Riders**

- **Walker Dismissal:** Students that will be walking home will be dismissed beginning at 3:10. **Walking means they are walking to their home. Parents should not be parked in the staff parking lot waiting to pick up their “walking” student.**

- **Pick-Up Location:** If you are here to walk with you child please meet your child at their designated location. There will be **no pickup** at the Primary entrance.

Pk-4 will be released at the side entrance - please pay attention to the posted signs

5 -8 walkers will be released from the Jr. High doors - please pay attention to the posted signs

### **Car Dismissal**

**Pre-K students will be dismissed to their parents in the parking lot located behind the building.**

Car dismissal will begin at 3:15. If you are planning to pick your child up, please stay in your car and follow the curve to the marked pick up zone area. Do not park or get out of your car. Please be ready to move with the line to prevent backups. The driveway in front of the school is designated for buses only.

- **Family Names:** Parents/guardians will be given two papers with your family name on them. When you pick up you must have your family name card displayed when entering the parking lot so student(s) are ready when the car line moves. Parents/guardians wishing to meet a student to walk them to the car, must park in a parking space and walk to the waiting area on the sidewalk. Family names/numbers must be displayed while waiting.

Any family needing more than two name/number tags are asked to make their own additional tags by writing their name and number clearly on a large piece of paper.

- **Traffic-** Traffic backs up quickly as cars arrive but begins moving smoothly once we start loading students. Please always be on the lookout for individuals walking in the parking lot, including students, family members, and staff. Remember that “you are right when you turn right”... enter the parking lot by turning right and exit the parking lot by turning right. This will ensure smooth traffic flow and safety.
- **Communication:** All individuals who will be picking up students (ex: babysitters, siblings, grandparents) should be made aware of these procedures prior to picking up students. • **Patience and Kindness:** Please be patient as traffic volume may increase this year. Our goal is to get all students home safely and in a timely manner.

### **Bus Transportation Guidelines:**

- Students who requested transportation will be placed at a bus stop. Visit the [District Map on our website](#) to find bus stop times and locations.
- School buses are confined spaces that require a particular focus on social distancing.
- Students will have an assigned seat and bus drivers will keep a seating chart

# March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<i>1</i> High School Night 6:30—7:30	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 2 Hour Delay	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

***District Mission:*** Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grade levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity.

***District Vision:*** Toledo Public Schools strives to be an 'A-rated' school district whose graduates are college and career ready.



**Ottawa River is a Title 1 funded school. Title 1 funds help us to serve our students better. We are able to support the curriculum through professional development for our staff. Our staff is dedicated to the success of each child and each of us work diligently to help each and every student.**