

QUARTER 1

August/September 2021



OTTER OUTREACH!



OTTAWA RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

August/September Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Ottawa River Parents and Community,

As Principal of Ottawa River Elementary School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for the 2021-2022 school year! We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways, filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. Although, we are still masked and socially distanced having our Otters back is amazing! This year in addition to our mission to help every child feel welcomed, connected and a part of our Otter family, we also want to keep everyone safe and as healthy as possible. Please exercise understanding as we are not fully back to how it once was. We are only doing this for the safety of all of our children and adults.

Additionally, we will continue to strive to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic abilities and to be ready for their next journey and ultimately be college and career ready. At Ottawa River, we have great teachers who spend hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our students in learning. Our teachers utilize research-based best practices and analyze academic data to determine current skill levels and to set goals for growth and improvement.

I am honored to serve as the Principal of Ottawa River Elementary School. It is truly a privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Please feel free to contact me at 419-671-6350 or at tgriffin@tps.org.

Once again, welcome back! Let's make it great year at Ottawa River together!

Sincerely,

Tamra Griffin

Principal

4747 290th Street
Toledo, Ohio

Phone 419-671-6350

Attendance 419-671-6351

Fax 419-671-6395

Tamra Griffin

Principal

tgriffin@tps.org

Eric Urban

Assistant Principal

eurban@tps.org

Megan Kronovich

Counselor

mchronovi@tps.org

Tracy Cook

Secretary

tcCook@tps.org

Vicki Cobb-Boes

Nurse

vcobbboe@tps.org



Important dates

September 6th—Labor Day NO SCHOOL

September 10th—16th—Book Fair

Emotional Wellness

With the school year starting back up and families, getting back into the swing of things, I thought it was important to take the time and talk about your child's emotional wellness. Emotional wellness lays the foundation for positive learning and well-being.

Like math and reading, emotional skills are taught. Kids learn how to name their feelings and the appropriate ways to work through them. Kids, like adults, have bad days. They are not happy all the time and the ability to recognize and cope with emotions, good or bad, is a life long journey as new challenges are always being thrown their way.

How can you as a parent help build up your child's emotional wellness? It's easy, be a good listener. When your child talks to you really listen, make good eye contact, put down your phone, and repeat back what they said, without judgement and before adding commentary. You can talk openly to your child about your own emotions. Share how you are feeling and how you cope with it. Emotions are not a sign of weakness and it is normal to share feelings with people you trust.

Next watch for your child's physical health. Is your child eating well and getting enough sleep. Do they complain about their stomach hurting or headaches, these are signs that they could be stressed. Are you limiting screen time? Are they going outside to play or participating in any after school activities? Physical health has a huge impact on our child's emotional wellness.

Teach your child coping skills. Activities like yoga, art, writing in a journal or going for a walk are just a few ways to deal with emotions in a healthy way. Empower your child to be a problem solver. Learning how to solve their own problems can boost kids' self-esteem and lower stress. If your child is dealing with a conflict, ask how they think it should be resolved. Give your child the chance to fix it their way, and then follow up after to see if and how you could help.

Just as you schedule a well-child visit to protect your child's health, we should be proactive about their emotional wellness. Kids and parents alike need to learn the importance of self-care; it's hard to give your child support if you are stressed and struggling yourself. As parents, we need to make sure that we are leading by example and taking care of ourselves first.

Prioritize sleep (sleep is so important for developing children, so make sure they are getting enough rest)

Step away from screens (TV, gaming systems, iPad, and electronic device)

Make time for each other, spend quality family time together and spend time with friends who make you feel happy.

Be physically Active (get out and move, yoga, walking, running, or riding bikes)

Do things that make you happy (do a puzzle, paint, play board games, learn a new skill, or read)

Provide emotional support when needed (listen and don't judge)

Do not set unrealistic expectations –set smaller goals that will help them accomplish a bigger goal.

Meditate with your kids

Talk about growth mindset and the power of 'Yet' (I can't do it yet)

Self-Care (take a hot bath or long shower, go for a run, get your hair or nails done, take time to do go fishing, or do any activity that makes you happy)

If you would like more information, contact me anytime

Your School Counselor

Megan Kronovich (Mrs. K)

419-671-6350

NURSE'S CORNER

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



**FEVER OVER
100.4 DEGREES**



**COUGH OR
SORE THROAT**



**NEW SHORTNESS
OF BREATH**



CHILLS



**NEW
MUSCLE PAIN**



**NEW LOSS OF
TASTE OR SMELL**



**NAUSEA/
VOMITING**



DIARRHEA



**NEW HEADACHE/
EXCESSIVE FATIGUE**

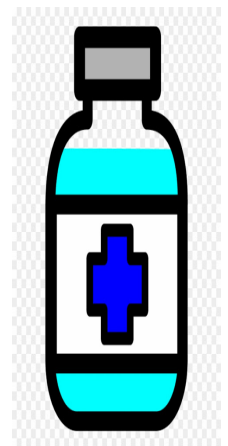


**CONGESTION/
RUNNY NOSE**

FACTS.:::
OVER FEAR
COVID-19

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)

Mask Protocols

Just a reminder that masks are to be worn at all times while in the building, other than when the students are eating and drinking at lunch. Masks should fit under the chin and be worn up over the nose. If a student forgets their mask, we have extra ones at school that will be given to the student to keep.





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.

Thank you for all you do to make Ottawa River a fantastic place to be!

Labor Day

Just a reminder that Monday September 6th is Labor Day and there will be NO SCHOOL that day.



Book Fair

Our PTO will be having a Book Fair from September 10th through the 16th. Our classes will be visiting the Book Fair, so you can send money with them in case they find any items that they'd like to purchase.



Ottawa River Sprit Wear

We have a brand new and exciting offer for you this month! See below for your image, message and link:

Need new Spiritwear for Spring? Now is the time to stock up! Save up to 30% with code SPRUCE21! Order now, this is a limited time offer!

P.S. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and Instagram! If you see a shirt from your school featured and you share it, we'll send you a FREE t-shirt of your choice!

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/1stplacespiritwear/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1st-Place-Spiritwear-104793921257678>

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLOWOUT SALE!

All **Ottawa River Elementary School** spirit wear is 30% off! New designs have just been released and we feature ultra-soft Bella Canvas tees. [Shop Now!](#)
Example savings:

- Tees from \$16.99 (~~\$22.09~~)
- Hoodies from \$29.99 (~~\$38.99~~)

Free Shipping on all orders over \$100e-Spiritwear-104793921257678





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!!!

McKenzie Murphy
Holly Konesni
Dominic Selvera
Sophia Slaughter
Hunter Ausmus
Cora Dean
Boston Frank
Makenna Heighland
Ryker Allen
Urban Barnett
Cayden Gilmer
Tessa Rosales
Colton Packman
Layla Hardin
Nation Barnett
Aniyah Chandler
Wesley Wright

Omar Simmons
Khloe Schnatterly
Emma Zaborski
Kenny Ulch
Zak Armstrong
Jake Hammond
Sienna Pegish
Cahmya Simmons
Christopher Lopez
Lyla Michalak



Students
OF THE
MONTH



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

Leah Scarberry 8/2
Devin Marquez 8/5
Boston Frank 8/6
Aniyah Chandler 8/7
Brody Mosser 8/7
Noah Jaffe 8/7
Amariona Wiggins 8/8
Landon Wurst 8/9
Celeste Hansen 8/10
Leon Cieslak 8/11
Austin Provo 8/12
Apryl Vasquez-Hayes 8/14
Emily King 8/15
Dalia Selvera 8/15
Christian Hassler 8/19
Kaelynn Kuiper 8/21
Zane Hamrick 8/22
Christopher Lopez 8/22
Maci Mack 8/22
Ryleigh Likes 8/27
Brian Krouse 8/28
Samantha Wurst 8/30

Evaline Zaborski 9/2
Levi Critchley 9/3
Jalen Schwab 9/4
Liam Salyer 9/6
Piercen Offet 9/7
Addison Krueger 9/10
Layla Hardin 9/11
Josiah Wells 9/18
Selena Perez 9/19
Silas Ely 9/21
Garrett Smith 9/23
James Dobson 9/24
Jazmyn Parker 9/24
Julianne Hammond 9/25
Amelia Inman 9/28
Leilani Wise 9/28
Jaclyn Hammond 9/29
Dale Przybysz 9/30



Arrival Routine

A note to parents/guardians who will be DRIVING/WALKING their student(s): • Doors open at 8:45 AM. Breakfast will be provided for home consumption. ***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.

Arrival Routine for All Students

Walkers and Car Riders

- Masks must be worn by both students and adults during drop-off.

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

As students enter the building they will need to have a mask on and will be given hand sanitizer.

- 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.
- While the building is not open to visitors (outside of needing to speak to someone in the office which will require a face covering), families are permitted to park in a designated parking space and walk their child to the door as long as all individuals are wearing a mask and practicing appropriate social distancing between families.
- 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 3:00.
- **Pick-Up Location:** If you are here to walk with your 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
- For the health and safety of our students and bus drivers, we are reducing the number of student riders per bus

September 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day No School	7	8	9	10 Book Fair	11
12	13 Book Fair	14 Book Fair	15 Book Fair	16 Book Fair	17 Book Fair	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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.