

# Defiance Elementary School News

400 Carter Road  
Defiance, OH 43512  
419-785-2260

Principal K – 2: Deanne Held  
Principal 3 – 5: Teresa Pfeiffer



## December 2023



### Important Upcoming Events

- December 4      5th Grade Band Concert @ 6:00 pm in DES Auditoria
- \*\*\*Christmas Spirit Days Begin\*\*\***
- December 11      ***“Don We Now Our Plaid Apparel...”*** Wear plaid or flannel.
- December 12      ***“There must have been some magic in that old top hat they found...”***  
Wear a warm winter or Christmas hat.
- December 13      ***“The stockings were hung by the chimney with care...”*** Wear your festive Christmas socks.
- December 14      ***“You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch!”*** Wear as much green as you can;  
**5th Grade and 4th Grade Choirs Concert @ 6:30 pm in DES Auditoria.**
- December 15      ***“Walking in a Winter Wonderland”*** Wear your warm PJs;  
**5th Grade Spelling Bee in cafe @ 1:45 pm**
- December 18      ***“I’m Dreaming of a Crazy Christmas...”*** Wear a crazy Christmas sweater.
- December 19      ***“It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas...”*** Dress as your favorite Christmas character.
- December 20      ***“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer...”*** Wear as much red as you can or dress like a reindeer; **Early Dismissal @ 2:30 for car riders, @ 2:45 for bus.**
- Dec. 21 - Jan. 2      **NO SCHOOL** – Christmas Vacation - Return on Wednesday, January 3, 2024



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## DES Information

### *Winter Weather*

Please keep in mind that our winter weather has arrived. Most of our children go outside for recess at least twice a day and need to be properly clothed. **A coat is necessary every day.** In the event of snow, all-weather boots are required to play in the wet snow. Children without **snow boots** will remain on the blacktop areas. **Please note, if the wind chill is above 20°F, we have outside recess.** Thank you for your cooperation.

### *Attendance*

A new measure on our State report card is attendance. Last school year, we had over 30% of our students miss two or more days of school a month, which harms our overall score. ***If a child is not in school, they are missing crucial instruction.*** While teachers make every effort to ‘catch your child up,’ it is not the same as receiving direct instruction, practice and feedback with their entire class. Please try to help us improve this attendance rate by having your child at school each and every day. Make an effort to have doctor or dentist appointments before or after school. Take your vacations during Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, Spring Break and Summer Break. Thank you for making this adjustment. Together we can improve our attendance rate. NOTE: Fever, unexplained rash, severe cold/flu, Covid, vomit and diarrhea are legitimate reasons to miss school.

### *Spirit Days*

Staff and students are welcome to participate in Holiday Spirit Days as noted above. This is always a fun time for us, and we love seeing the creativity our students exhibit! Plus, it’s a great way to kick off our holiday break.

### *Guidance News*

As you are aware, our Guidance Department has a character word each month for our students. Teachers try to ‘catch’ their students using this character word and reward them for their behavior. The character word for December is **Dignity**, having a sense of pride in oneself; self-respect. The Leader in Me Habit 4: Think *Win-Win*, is also being introduced this month, as the two tie together.

### *DES 5th Grade Band Program*

The fifth grade band, under the direction of Erin Blackwood, will present their first concert on Monday, December 4. The program will begin at 6:00 in the DES Auditoria.

### *DES 5th Grade and 4th Grade Choirs Program*

The fifth grade and fourth grade choirs, under the direction of Jennifer Long, will be performing a concert on Thursday, December 14 at the DES Auditoria. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.



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## ***Title I Information***

As a parent, you have the right to know about the teaching qualifications of your child's classroom teacher in a school receiving Title I funds. Federal regulations require that any local school district receiving Title I funds must notify parents that they may ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher.

These qualifications include:

1. 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.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status that waives state licensing requirements.
3. 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.
4. Whether your child is provided services by instructional paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you are interested in this information, please call 419-782-0070 or email Sheri Steyer at [ssteyer@defianceschools.net](mailto:ssteyer@defianceschools.net).

## ***PTO News***

Thank you for participating in another successful fundraiser. Our school raised over \$20,000 to be used for field trips, assemblies and other student incentives. Congratulations to third grader, Ava Sweinhagen and first grader, Charlie Darrow for being the top salespersons. Well done!

At the last meeting, dates were selected for the Father/Daughter (March 2) and Mother/Son (March 16) events this year. More details will come after the holiday break.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9 @ 5:30 p.m. in the elementary library. Please join us!



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