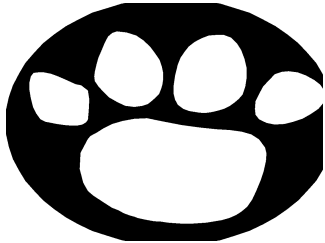


Defiance Elementary School News

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

Principal K – 2: Deanne Held
Principal 3 – 5: Jane Myers



SEPTEMBER 2020

Important Upcoming Events

September 1	MAP Reading/Math Testing Begins (K-5)
September 7	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Holiday
September 24	Picture Day - Grades KS-2
September 25	Picture Day - Grades 3-5

Looking Ahead

October 19	NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service
October 23	End of Grading Period
October 28	Picture Retakes and DVA/NOVA Students

COVID-19 UPDATE: School is well underway, and your children are adapting well to our new health and safety guidelines. Thank you to each family for encouraging your child to practice social distancing, use a good hand washing routine and wear a face covering. For the most part, school feels very normal for all of us.

As you read through the remainder of this newsletter, you will see that several school policies have been adjusted due to the current Health Department Order. If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding these changes, please contact your appropriate building level principal.

BUS TRANSPORTATION: We strongly support our bus drivers and the difficult task they have. We also want to ensure the safety of all children riding. For these reasons, any physical aggression shown by a student on the bus will result in an automatic removal for up to three days. Please talk with your children about the importance of keeping their hands to themselves. If you have any transportation questions or concerns, you may reach the garage by calling 419.782.7091.

BUS CHANGES: We do not allow day to day bus changes, unless there is an emergency situation. If you need to make a *permanent* bus change (i.e. moving, day care change), there is a new online form you may access vs. calling the garage. These changes must be made five days in advance of the change. Use the following link and select Transportation Form to make these *permanent* changes:

<http://www.defiancecityschools.org/Transportation.aspx>

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Please note, this is NOT for emergency changes due to work schedules, shared parenting agreements, or other special circumstances. Your child's teacher will still require a written note or our school secretary must be notified before 2:00 p.m. for these changes to occur. As a reminder, all changes should be limited. It is very confusing for our young children. The more consistent you keep their routine, the better! In addition, assigned seats on the bus make these changes difficult.

CAFETERIA: Please maintain a positive balance in your child's lunch account. Student lunches are \$2.75. Breakfast is \$1.75, and milk is 60 cents. Our school policy is to serve your child a peanut butter and jelly sandwich until your account becomes current. If you have questions regarding your lunch account, please contact Deanna Hull, our cafeteria supervisor, at 419.782.6382.

SCHOOL SECURITY: Please remember that our building is time locked until 8:45 a.m. Please do not drop your child off before this time as they will be unsupervised outside. *Also remember, drop off can only occur in the front of the school.* Please stay away from our bus traffic. **Walkers and bike riders should not arrive on school property until after 8:45 a.m. and must enter through the Rosewood gate.** Crossing guards are on duty from 8:35 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. at St. Rt. 66 and at the Rosewood entrance gate.

SAFETY/SECURITY POLICY: We want to be a welcoming elementary school; however, at the same time, we must provide the most secure environment for your child. Our normal policy would allow you the first month to get your child accustomed; however, with COVID-19, we cannot allow any visitors in the building. For this reason, we are asking parents to drop your child at the front of the school and allow them to walk to class by themselves. If you have concerns or questions, please see your appropriate building principal.

BOOK FEES: Book fees are \$52.00 again this school year. Please make an effort to pay your school fees. We will also accept quarterly payments of \$13.00. Checks can be made to: Defiance City Schools. See your office secretary to submit a payment. You may also pay your fees online by clicking on the following link: www.k12paymentcenter.com.

MONTHLY TWO-HOUR DELAYS: Our district has decided to eliminate all two-hour delays this school year. Please remove these from your monthly calendars.

PTO: Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, all PTO activities have been cancelled. Please feel free to follow the PTO Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DefianceElementary.PTO>

NEWSLETTER: This is the only hard copy of our school newsletter that we will distribute. Please view our school website (defiancecityschools.org.) for future newsletters. They can be found under the Elementary School Link. Newsletters will be available online at the beginning of each new month. If you do not have online access, please send a written note with your child. We will gladly provide you with a hard copy.

FACEBOOK PAGE: Please take a moment to "like" our Defiance City Schools Facebook page. We often post exciting news regarding upcoming events at DES. This link will take you to our homepage: <https://www.facebook.com/DefianceCitySchools>.

WE'VE GOT AN APP: Defiance City Schools also has an APP you can download on your phone for free. Search for Defiance City Schools in the APP Store and you can get daily notifications of events in our district.

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CAR RIDER PROCEDURE:

IF you are picking your child up after school, here are a few reminders of the proper procedure.

1. **Pick Up Lane**-If using the pick up lane, remain in your car and *stay in the lane* until you reach your child's grade pick up area. Older children are to stand with the youngest child in the family.
2. **Parked Car**-If you are parking your car, **you must get out** and come get your child. PLEASE use the crossing guard section. Safety first!
3. **Speed**-- Please use posted correct speed and be alert at all times.
4. **Rain**- in the event of rain, the students will take shelter under the overhang in front of the library.
5. **Changes**-If you have a change in the normal pick up procedure, (someone else picking up, i.e. Aunt, Grandma, etc.) please send a written note to school to notify us. In addition, this person should be listed on your Emergency Information Form.
6. **Dismissal Time**-Children are dismissed at 3:20. Please wait until the students have gone to their designated spots before greeting them. Please do not have the children run to you.
7. **Missing Child**- If you cannot locate your child, please see Ms. Wank, our guidance counselor. She will use the radio to locate the child.

DES WALKING/BIKE RIDING POLICY: Students will be allowed to walk or ride their bikes to school. The following guidelines MUST be followed or the student will be denied these privileges.

1. A signed note from a parent/guardian must be on file in the office giving your child permission to be a walker/bike rider. Your child's teacher must also be informed.
2. All walking/bike riding traffic MUST enter from Rosewood Drive. No students will be permitted to enter from Carter Road.
3. Crossing guards will be on duty (8:35-9:05 a.m./3:15-3:45 p.m.) on St. Rt. 66 to help children cross safely to Rosewood Drive.
4. Crossing guards will also be on duty to help students cross bus traffic in our back parking lot. Students will then follow the sidewalks to the back cafeteria entrance.
5. Bike racks will be available for students to park just inside the Rosewood Avenue gate entrance. Defiance City Schools will not be responsible for lost or stolen bikes. Students are welcome to bring locks for their bikes.
6. Students must follow all rules and regulations to continue walking/riding their bike to school. This includes obeying the crossing guards on duty at all times.
7. **Parents are not permitted to pick their child up in a car at the Rosewood Drive gate. All pickups must still occur in the front of the school.** If a child is walking/riding their bike, they must travel all the way home; not to an alternate pickup location. However, parents may greet their child on foot/bike.

The following discipline will be implemented if a student does not follow policy:

1. First infraction will result in a warning to the student and the parent.
2. Second infraction will result in loss of privilege for one week.
3. Third infraction will result in loss of privilege for the semester.
4. Fourth infraction will result in loss of privilege for the remainder of the school year.

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While walking/bike riding is open to all KS-5 students at DES, we would like parents to use sound judgment in allowing our younger students to do this without adult or older sibling supervision. If we feel it is unsafe for your child at any time, you will be notified.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION: Our school is fortunate to have two guidance counselors, Ms. Renee Wank and Mr. Reggie Beck. Our counselors interact with your children on a daily basis, and are a very visible part of our school. If you have any needs for your child that you would like to address with our counselors, feel free to contact them for an appointment.

CHARACTER WORD: The K-2 word of the month is **BELONG**. Part of our district plan is to make all students, *Believe, Belong and Become* a Bulldog. This month we will focus on BELONGing, which means to pursue a shared purpose. When we share a purpose, we make each other better. It's important that we teach our students to invest time to care, listen and communicate. Also, to think we, not me; and to embrace similarities and respect differences in each other.

PICTURE DAY: All students in Grades KS-5 will have their school picture taken for the yearbook. You do not have to purchase a picture packet. KS-2 students will have their photograph taken on Thursday, September 24. Grades 3-5 will have their photograph taken on Friday, September 25. All DVA/NOVA students will have the option to have their photo taken on October 28 between the hours of 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.. Below is the link to order online:

<http://orders.langephotographics.com>

THE BULLDOG WAY

This year we are excited to continue The Bulldog Way with our students and staff. The Bulldog Way is the idea that our character and behavior is shaped to positively represent Defiance City Schools. However, because we can not gather in large groups we have placed this program on hold. We are hopeful that the second semester we will be able to hold house meetings and introduce our third graders to our house system.

CHROMEBOOKS

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have been issued a ChromeBook. These devices are used daily in the classroom and in some instances will be used for homework. Students will be allowed to take their ChromeBooks home to complete assignments once the Internet Usage form is completed. In addition, while not required, it is highly recommended that you invest in the \$25.00 insurance fee. This fee will cover damage for which you would otherwise be held liable. Please complete the internet usage form and return it as soon as possible. You may pay the insurance fee on line at www.k12paymentcenter.com or send a check with your child.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

The USDA is granting the Defiance City Schools a waiver to feed all students breakfast and lunch for free through the Seamless Summer Program until December 31, 2020 or until the funds run out, whichever comes first. Families that have qualified or could qualify for free or reduced lunch, please complete the free and reduced forms as this program will not last the entire school year. If you have any questions, please contact Deanna Hull at dhull@defianceschools.net or 419-782-6382.

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