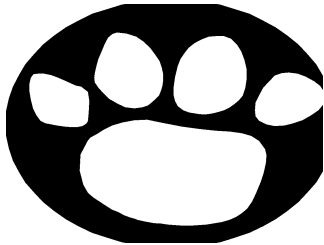


Defiance Elementary School News

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

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



SEPTEMBER 2021

Important Upcoming Events

August 23	First Day of School for Kindergarten
August 26	KS-2 School Pictures
August 27	3-5 School Pictures
September 1	iReady Diagnostic Testing Begins (K-5)
September 6	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Holiday
September 7	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. - Elementary Library
September 9	5th Grade Band Parent Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. - Elementary Cafeteria
September 14-16	CoGAT Testing (5th grade)
September 20	Morning Band Begins

Looking Ahead

October 18	NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service
October 19 & 21	3rd Grade Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:45-7:15)
October 21	Picture Retakes Grades KS-5
October 22	End of Grading Period
October 25	Red Cross Blood Drive - Elementary Gym

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. Children cannot be dropped at a place of business or the YMCA unless they attend daycare there. Grade KS-2 children must have a parent

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visible before they will be permitted to leave the bus. If you have a permanent change, please contact the bus garage at 419.782.7091. Rana Bloomfield or Mark Weidenhammer can assist you. Please give at least two days notice for this permanent change.

CAFETERIA: Federal funding will cover school lunches again this year; however, it is still very important that you return your free and reduced lunch forms. This will help you receive uninterrupted service when the grant expires. Our Title funding is also hooked to this federal grant, so it is important that we show the need in our district to maintain our funding. If you have any questions, please contact Deanna Hull at dhull@defianceschools.net or 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 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 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.

PTO: Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 7, at 6:00 p.m. in our elementary library. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. The fall fundraiser will be the main item on the agenda. Please feel free to follow the PTO Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Defiance.Elementary.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 (8:30-9:00 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.

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.

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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, August 26. Grades 3-5 will have their photograph taken on Friday, August 27.

3-5 PBIS: BARK like a Bulldog!

This year, we will be starting our new-ish PBIS format. It is called “**BARK** like a Bulldog!” **BARK** stands for **Be** Accountable, **R**espectful, and **K**ind. The purpose of the DES 3-5 PBIS is to intentionally model and teach expected and appropriate behaviors using a school-wide matrix. It includes a carefully planned student behavior management flow chart which will help to streamline the behavioral intervention process. It also has an acknowledgement system where students can earn “Bulldog Way” points and win prizes for demonstrating positive behavior. Another change from last year is the move from monthly house meetings to quarterly ‘BARK’ Days. This will still feature the benefits of the house meetings while minimizing disruptions to instructional time. They will be on the following dates:

- 11/1 **B**elieve
- 1/10 **A**ccountable
- 3/14 **R**espectful
- 5/23 **K**ind

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.