

Defiance Elementary School News

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

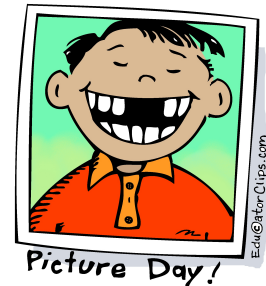
Principal K – 2: Deanne Held
Principal 3 – 5: Teresa Pfeiffer



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

Important Upcoming Events

August 21	Open House - 3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
August 23	First Day of School for Grades 1-5 i-Ready Diagnostic Testing Begins (Gr. 1-5)
August 24-25	KinderStart and Kindergarten Orientation Meetings
August 25	First Day of School for KinderStart
August 28	First Day of School for Kindergarten
September 4	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
September 6	PTO Fundraiser Kick Off
September 12-14	5th Grade CoGAT Testing
September 12	Grades KS-2 School Pictures
September 13	Grades 3-5 School Pictures
September 14	5th Grade Band Parent Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. in DES Cafe
September 25	Morning “Fast Start” Band Begins



Looking Ahead

October 12	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 13	NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher Conferences
October 16	NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service Red Cross Blood Drive - 1:00-6:00 p.m. in DES Gym
October 24 & 25	3rd Grade Fall ELA Ohio's State Assessment
October 26	Picture Retakes Grades KS-5
October 27	End of Grading Period
October 30	Grades 3-5 B.A.R.K. Day– “Believe”



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EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS: All students RETURNING to Defiance City Schools will need to update their EMF online. If you are a NEW family to the district or an incoming KS or K student for the 2023-24 school year, this has already been completed at registration. Returning students from grades 1-5 (and KS students from 2022-23), please visit the following link to update your child's information: <https://www.defiancecityschools.org/ReturningStudentRegistration.aspx>.

If you have forgotten your username or password, click the appropriate link. An email will be sent to you to reset your information. **NOTE:** If you do not have internet access or a computer at home, feel free to visit the elementary school to update your EMF. This is difficult to do from your cell phone.

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 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: Please check your child's folder for the Free & Reduced Lunch Application form or fill out online at www.payschoolscentral.com. You may also add lunch money to their account on the same website. Breakfast is \$2.00 and Lunch is \$3.00. If you have any questions, contact Deanna Hull, Cafeteria Supervisor 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. 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 (***unless they are coming to school late, in which case an adult will need to come into the office to sign them in***). If you have concerns or questions, please see your appropriate building principal. **NOTE:** We will allow kindergarten parents to walk their child to class the first few days of school to get them accustomed. After Labor Day, no parents will be permitted to walk their children to class.

BOOK FEES: Book fees are \$52.00 again this school year for all elementary students. 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. School fees can also be paid through www.payschoolscentral.com. See the instructions at the end of this newsletter.

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PTO: Our first meeting will be September 12 at 5:30. 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, <https://www.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>.

Twitter: If you are a Twitter user, both the K-2 and the 3-5 have handles. You can follow us at: @K2DefiElem and @3_5DefianceElem.

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.

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 the 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.

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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.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION: Our school is fortunate to have two guidance counselors, Ms. Renee Wank and Mrs. Jennifer Stark, as well as a social worker, 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 character 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, we need to teach our students 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. Grades KS-2 students will have their photograph taken on Tuesday, September 12. Grades 3-5 will have their photograph taken on Wednesday, September 13.

GRADE 3-5 PBIS:

B.A.R.K. like a bulldog! B.A.R.K. stands for *Be Accountable, Respectful, and Kind*. The purpose of the DES 3-5 PBIS is to intentionally model and teach expected and appropriate behaviors using a school-wide matrix. It also has an acknowledgement system where students can earn paw points and win prizes for demonstrating positive behavior. As in previous years, we will be having quarterly B.A.R.K. Days in which we focus on one of our character themes (BELIEVE, ACCOUNTABLE, RESPECTFUL, or KIND) and participate in activities that promote that theme. We will also be incorporating "Ticket Tuesdays" where the classroom teachers will be drawing a grade-level determined number of tickets for a weekly reward to be given that day or the next. In addition to the weekly winners, on the last day of each month, teachers will draw three more names who will get to attend the monthly experience party. Classes can also earn large bones from their Specials teachers, Recess Aides, Cafeteria staff, bus drivers, etc. The class at the end of the month with the most bones will receive the ***"Defiance Elementary Top Dog Award"*** trophy to display in their classroom for a month.

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CHROMEBOOKS: All DES students have been issued a ChromeBook. These devices are used daily in the classroom. Students will NOT be allowed to take their ChromeBooks home.

SENATE BILL 288: Ohio's 134th General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 288 which updated the prescribed curriculum for health education, adding requirements related to child sexual abuse prevention, dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention.

Ohio law on curriculum for health education now requires schools and districts to provide instruction on child sexual abuse prevention to students in grades K-6 and instruction on dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention to students in grades 7-12. Schools and districts must notify parents and legal guardians of the curriculum. The legislation also requires school personnel to receive in-service training on child sexual abuse.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, our counselors will provide developmentally appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse. If you wish to excuse your son/daughter from this instruction, please provide a written request to their classroom teacher.

If you have any questions regarding the state suggested curriculum called SPEAK UP, please feel free to contact Ms. Renee Wank, Mrs. Jennifer Stark or Mr. Reggie Beck, our school counselors.

Grade Band	Big Ideas, Outcomes, and Key Ideas Vocabulary:
<p>Safety Lower Primary K-2nd</p> <p>Big Idea: I am learning about safety! I know how to identify what is safe and unsafe; I know what to do when I feel unsafe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the best safety-meter they haveDefine what safe people doDefine what safe people do not doDefine what makes someone an unsafe personIdentify what makes secrets unsafeIdentify their triangle of trustExplain how shock may impact someone's first reactionIdentify what is safe touchExplain how to be safe when using devices onlineAnalyze scenarios to apply key concepts and key vocabulary <p>Key Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Safety-meterSafe personUnsafe personSafe secretsUnsafe secretsTriangle of TrustShockSafe touchUnsafe touch
<p>Equipped Upper Primary 3rd-5th</p> <p>Big Idea: I am learning how to be equipped for people who might try to confuse or hurt me. I am learning what is safe and unsafe and what to do if I feel unsafe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Define what safe and unsafe people doDefine intuitionDefine gaslightingDescribe the difference between an unsafe secret and a surpriseDefine the body safety rules for your bodyDefine consentDefine and list three people in their Triangle of TrustList examples of ways to speak out if something makes you uncomfortableList ways that people can be unsafe onlineAnalyze scenarios to apply key concepts and key vocabulary <p>Key Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Safe adultUnsafe adultIntuitionGaslightingUnsafe secretSafe secret/surpriseBody Safety RulesConsentShockTriangle of Trust

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Our district has selected the **PaySchools Central payment portal** for lunch payments and student fees - **All in ONE place!** starting for the 2023-2024 school year. This new system will be available starting **June 15, 2023**. Don't worry, all lunch account and student fee balances will be transferred to the new system!

Now you can pay for your children's school lunches and student fees in one place online, securely and quickly. No more having to switch between multiple sites and no more lost cash or checks!

- 1 After June 15, 2023, create your account using your computer or tablet at: www.payschoolscentral.com
- 2 If you want to use your phone, download the PaySchools Central app on the Apple App Store or Google Play.
- 3 Complete account registration by selecting register, entering your profile details, setting up your password via the email link we'll send you, then logging in.
- 4 Add your children to your account using their **student ID numbers**.
- 5 If you'd like, enter credit card and/or banking information as forms of payment to use with your PaySchools account, or simply plan to use guest checkout when the time comes.
- 6 Manage school payments with ease!



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Now You Can:

- Manage all your children's accounts and fees in one place.
- Set up auto-replenish to automatically fill lunch accounts when they're running low.
- Set up reminders and alerts.
- Review your children's purchases
- Handle payments 24/7, at your convenience, on any device.

Convenience and Processing Fees

Payschool offers lower fees and a flat transaction fee for most transactions not a percentage! The following fees will be incurred per PaySchools Central Transaction:

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Paid with checking-account transfer:

\$ 1.75

Paid with debit or credit card - \$0-24.99:

\$ 1.65

Paid with debit or credit card - \$25-49.99:

\$ 2.00

Paid with debit or credit card - \$50 or more:

4.50%

OTHER SCHOOL FEES

Paid with checking-account transfer:

\$ 1.75

Paid with debit or credit card:

4.50%

Need help with your PaySchools Central account?



psc_help@payschools.com



877-393-6628

8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. ET (M-F)

Rest assured that PaySchools is PCI-compliant and maintains industry-standard SSL certificates, ensuring all your family's data is **safe and secure.**

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EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Your child has already missed out on 20 minutes of morning activities. The attendance has been taken and students are 'tardy' after this time.

Your child has arrived in **good time** to meet friends and take part in morning activities from 8:45 am.

8:45 am

9:05 am

9:10 am

5 minutes late =
3 days of learning lost a year

9:15 am 10 minutes late
6 days of learning lost a year

9:20 am 15 minutes late
9 days of learning lost a year

Lateness = Lost Learning

Students find arriving at school late upsetting, and they miss out on important opportunities.

Please work with us to provide your child with the best chances of learning by making sure he/she is in school ***every day and on time.***