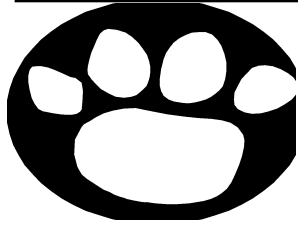


Defiance Elementary School News

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

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



OCTOBER 2023

Important Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 25 | D.A.R.E. Program starts for 5th Graders |
| October 4 | First Grade to Leader's Farm |
| October 10 | PTO Meeting – 5:30 p.m. in Library |
| October 11 | PTO's "Day of Awesomeness" (Fundraiser Reward Party) |
| October 12 | Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. |
| October 13 | NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| October 16 | NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service |
| | Pint Size Heroes Blood Drive, 1:00-7:00 p.m. |
| October 17 | Firefighters Read to 1st Graders |
| October 19 | Firefighters Read to 2nd Graders |
| October 20 | Firefighters Read to 3rd Graders |
| October 23 - 27 | Red Ribbon Week |
| October 23 | Firefighters Read to 4th Graders |
| October 24 | 3rd Grade Fall ELA Ohio State Test |
| October 25 | 3rd Grade Fall ELA Ohio State Test |
| | Firefighters Read to 5th Graders |
| October 26 | Picture Retakes |
| October 27 | End of 1st Grading Period |
| | Blazing the Trails to Literacy Fire Truck Parade |



Looking Ahead

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| November 10 | Veteran's Day Assembly |
| November 22 - 24 | NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break |



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DES Information

Homecoming Week Dress Up Days: Defiance Elementary School will be celebrating Homecoming week October 2-6. Students are encouraged to dress up following these themes:

- **Monday, October 2** - “Pajama Day”
- **Tuesday, October 3** - “Mismatch Day”
- **Wednesday, October 4** - “Dress Fancy or Dress in Workout Clothes Day”
- **Thursday, October 5** - “Class Color Day”
- **Friday, October 6** - “Sports Fan Day”

Parent Teacher Conferences: Our annual parent teacher conferences will be held on **Thursday evening, October 12 and Friday morning, October 13**. Teachers have already sent handouts to schedule times to meet with families. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child’s teacher(s).

Mentoring Program: We are looking for adults that are interested in being a mentor for our KS-5 students. If you, a grandparent, or someone you know who is interested, please contact Renee Wank at 419-785-2260 ext. 4192. We are very interested in male role models, but all are welcome! Visit our website at the following link for more information:
https://www.defiancecityschools.org/elementary_home.aspx

Red Ribbon Week: Defiance Elementary School will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week October 23-27. Students are encouraged to dress up following the themes for each day:

- **Monday, October 23** – “DRUGS CAN’T FIND ME!” Students and staff wear camouflage.

- **Tuesday, October 24** – “YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!” Students and staff wear bright/neon colors and sunglasses.
- **Wednesday, October 25** – “CELEBRATE LEARNING!” Students and staff wear shirts with appropriate words on them.
- **Thursday, October 26** – “PEACE OUT TO DRUGS!” Students and staff wear tie dye or hippie attire.
- **Friday, October 27** – “SAY ‘BOO’ TO DRUGS!” Students and staff wear as much white as you can.

Fall Weather: As the weather changes and the air turns cooler, please make sure you are sending your child to school in a jacket or sweatshirt. All students go outside for recess daily.

PTO Information: Gayle Fenter will remain the PTO President. She would love to have your support during the 2023-24 school year! Please feel free to reach out to Gayle through the elementary PTO email address, ELEMPTO@defianceschools.net. She is currently seeking volunteers for the Day of Awesomeness on October 11. We need parent volunteers between the hours of 10:00-12:00 and 12:00-2:00.

The first Parent Teacher Organization meeting of the year was held in the DES library on September 12. Officers for the new school year are:

President	Gayle Fenter
Vice President	Sharmayne Rogers
Treasurer	Bridget Oberlin
Secretary	Ellen Erickson



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The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at **5:30 p.m.** in the elementary library. All are welcome! We hope to see you there.

Monthly Character Word: The Character word for October is **Respectful**. When you are respectful, you are showing respect and politeness. Take a minute to discuss what being respectful looks and sounds like with your student. The character attribute is important in both the home and school setting. Adults and children alike can be models of respectfulness every day.

3 – 5 Information

Third Grade Reading Guarantee: Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee is a program to identify students from kindergarten through grade 3 who are behind in reading. Schools will provide help and support to make sure students are on track for reading success by the end of third grade. The Department provides policy guidance, instructional tools and resources on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Districts and schools must adopt policies and procedures for annually assessing the reading skills of each student in grades K-3. Each year, districts and schools must administer the reading diagnostic by September 30 for grades 1-3 and November 1 for kindergarten. The results of the reading diagnostic determine whether a child is on-track or not on-track in reading. More information and resources can be found at www.education.ohio.gov.

3rd Grade Fall Ohio State ELA Assessment: All 3rd grade students will be showing what they know on Tuesday, October 24 and Wednesday, October 25 by completing the Fall Ohio State

ELA Assessment. This state-mandated test is an important measure of each third grade student's reading ability. Third graders will also take an additional Ohio State ELA Assessment in the spring (as well as one in Math). A score of 700 is considered proficient. For more information, check out the Ohio Department of Education website, [Third Grade Reading Guarantee | Ohio Department of Education](http://www.education.ohio.gov). Please see that your child eats breakfast and receives a good night's rest before this important test. Also, please encourage your child to do his/her best!



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Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

