

# Ohio Elementary School News

September 2008

Dear Parents,

Welcome one and all to an exciting new school year! We have been working diligently throughout the summer to prepare for the opening of school this academic year.

During this year, the Ohio School community will be continuing to focus on our efforts to bring excellence to your child's educational program. In our kindergarten program, we are continuing *The Magic Penny* program that was introduced last year. This year, we hope to expand this program to a few groups at the first grade level. This program helps to focus on the development of phonemic awareness – supporting our students in their reading and writing efforts. During our many faculty meetings this year, the Ohio Elementary faculty will also be focusing on the study of the Continuum of Learning Literacy. This comprehensive approach presents an exciting opportunity for our teachers to continue to enhance their professional skills as we work to bring excellence to your child's education.

I am excited about starting a new year with the Ohio community once again! Many changes have taken place within our school during the summer months and I believe that our educational program and community is well prepared for an exciting new year! Welcome Back!

Sincerely,  
*Karen Cuddy-Miller*  
Principal

## Calendar at a glance:

### September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Students first full day of school!
- 10<sup>th</sup> **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
- 11<sup>th</sup> Open House/Pizza Dinner – 6:30

### October

- 1<sup>st</sup> **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Picture Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> Family Dance
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Columbus Day** – No School
- 24<sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day – No School
- 31<sup>st</sup> Parent Teacher Conference Day  
½ day of school



## *Warm welcome to...*

### Teachers who are joining Ohio:

*Katie Jordan* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
*Cherisse Desjardins* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
*Maureen Charsley* – Special Education - K/1  
*Susan Routhier* – Special Education Grade 2  
*Kim Squier* – Special Education Grades 5/6

### Classroom Aides who are joining Ohio:

*Kim Krantz*  
*Rebecca Senft*  
*Janet Thomman*  
*Marona Wright*

## *Congratulations to...*

*Miss Susan Kinan* ~ now Mrs. Meterko

## **Attention Families: Expectations for this year!**

*This year we will continue to focus on the development of respect and responsibility among the members of our school community. We know that these are important character traits that are critical to our success, as students and as adults. I encourage our students to begin thinking and talking about how we can model these traits in our daily lives!*

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# Open House

**Open House** for Ohio Elementary School will take place on Thursday, September 11th, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Open house presents a great opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher, visit the classroom, and come to understand both the curriculum and expectations that will become a part of your lives for the coming year. During this event, Fall Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled to discuss your child's academic progress.

Additionally, O.H.I.O will be sponsoring a **pizza sale** starting at 5:30 p.m. (*Plan on joining us for dinner and an exciting evening!*)

**School Pictures:** Student pictures will be taken on Friday, October 3rd. Information will be sent home with students describing the variety of package options available.

**Mark this date on your calendar!**

# School Hours

**8:50 a.m.** Students may enter the building. Not student may enter before 8:50 unless they are here for breakfast.

**9:00 a.m.** Instructional day begins. Any child coming in late **MUST** report to the main office **with his or her parent** to obtain a late pass. **Children will not be admitted into class without a late pass.**

**3:10 – 3:15 p.m.** Student dismissal

**\*\*\*Please note:** In order to be admitted to the building before 8:50 students must be registered for the B.A.S.E. program. Any student, not registered in the BASE program, arriving before 8:50 a.m. will remain outside and unsupervised, as we are not able to provide supervision at this time. If your child walks to school, please time his/her travel time to school appropriately.



# Dress Code

Our ultimate goal is for our children to be healthy, happy, and successful, both now and in the future. To that end, we want our students to **“Dress for success.”** At Ohio Elementary, this means that we are dressing *with respect and safety* in mind. We ask that students wear sneakers or shoes that are safe and secure on their feet, (no hee-ies or flip-flops) and clothing that is respectful to self and others. This means that we would like to see clothing that **does not** expose underwear or tummies. Please also be certain that any picture or phrases that might be displayed on clothing are appropriate for an elementary school setting.

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# *Attention Parents: Arrival and Dismissal Policies*

As we are committed to keeping your child safe at all times, the following policies have been established and we need your help with the following procedures to ensure the safety of all of our children.

**Entering the Building:** As the Ohio Elementary entry doors are locked between 9:15 and 2:45, should you need to enter the building during these hours please:

- Approach the main doors at the *Ohio Street Entrance*
- *Press the doorbell* to notify the office of your arrival
- The Office *staff will electronically unlock* the doors so you can enter
- Please *proceed to the main office* (to your right as you enter) to either get a visitor's pass or wait for your son/daughter or specific building personnel.

**Early Dismissal:** In the event that your child needs to be released during the school day, written permission must be provided. Parents must then come to the main office in order to sign out their child.

**Everyday Dismissal:** If your child is a bus student, written permission is required for students to be dismissed without taking the bus. We cannot allow any exceptions. If we do not have a note indicating a change in your plans, your child will be placed on the bus.



## **Emergency Contact Information**

As you fill out the student information sheet/cards, we are requesting updated contact information, including emergency contact information. This information is critical to our ability to contact you for a variety of reasons ~ sudden school closings, student illness, and sometimes – missing permission for field trip attendance! This information also includes the identification of adults to whom you have given permission to pick up your child from school in the event of an emergency, illness, or injury. You may want to select a relative, friend, or neighbor, to whom we can release your child if you are not available. PLEASE NOTE: We will *not* be able to release your child for an unauthorized dismissal without this expressed permission for release.



It is also important to contact the school immediately if there is ever a change in your contact information – including cell, home, or work telephone numbers and/or your home address.

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## Attention Parents and Visitors: Instructional Time

Remembering that our charge is your child's education, we would like to remind everyone that instructional time is very precious to everyone in school – and directly linked to the success your child experiences in school. Interruptions to instructional time, therefore, must be kept to a minimum.

As a result, we ask that you please understand and honor the following policies:

1. Limit birthday treats to the number of students within your child's classroom.
2. Visitors must report to the office upon arrival to sign the visitor's log. **NO VISITOR MAY REPORT DIRECTLY TO A CLASSROOM.** All parents, including parents of BOCES students, should use the main entrance on Ohio Street. Once you have signed in, you will receive a visitor's tag to wear during your visit.



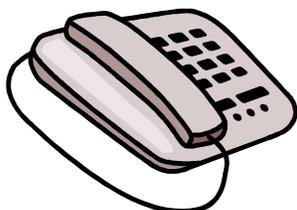
## Birthday Invitations and Treats

Please remember that Ohio Elementary is a community where we try to teach our children empathy ~ awareness of everyone's feelings. With this in mind, we prefer that private birthday invitations be distributed outside of the school day, so that we are not hurting the feelings of classmates who may not be invited.

Also, as we believe that it is important to balance the individual celebrations of special days with our goals for providing excellence in education, we ask that you please limit any birthday treats your child may bring to school to the number of people within the classroom. If your child insists that he or she would like to deliver treats to others within the building, the treat sharing will be limited to *one* other location within the building – perhaps last year's teacher, the nurse, or the main office.



## Staff Directory



Parents – you can reach any of the North Tonawanda teachers or staff members via phone or e-mail. In order to leave a message for faculty or staff, please dial 807-3651; enter the mailbox number + #. A flyer listing each of the mailbox numbers will be sent home in the near future – so look for it and plan on keeping it in a safe place for future reference!

Staff can also be reached via e-mail. E-mail addresses are the first letter of the first name plus the last name @ntschoools.org, for example: our principal, (Karen Cuddy-Miller) can be reached at [kcuddymiller@ntschoools.org](mailto:kcuddymiller@ntschoools.org).

Please look for additional contact information within the Ohio Elementary School Handbook to be distributed to students on the first day of school.

You may also want to check out the North Tonawanda City School District website at:

**[www.ntcityschools.wynric.org](http://www.ntcityschools.wynric.org)**

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# B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment)

The BASE program is offered at Ohio Elementary School from 7:00 to 8:50 a.m. and from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. Applications are available in the school office.

Children who are registered for BASE must bring a note to school, stating which days they will be attending. If there is a change in days, or your child is not attending BASE on a particular day, a note must be sent to school to advise of us any changes. If we do not receive a note, we will assume your child should report to the BASE program each day. For more information, please call the BASE office at 807-3784. BASE services begin on the first day of school!

The BASE program in the North Tonawanda City Schools is governed by New York State regulations. As such, each site is audited a number of times throughout the year. Our regulations clearly state that all participants must be registered with the program in order to attend. Therefore, we are not able to accommodate any child who is not enrolled by application and registration for attendance at BASE. This includes students who miss the bus and/or late parent pick-ups.

## From the School Nurse

Welcome back to all students. Listed below are a few reminders on requirements for the coming year.



1. Please let the school nurse know if your child has had any significant health problems during the summer.
2. When your child is absent from school, you must **WRITE A NOTE** stating the reason for your child's absence. If a note is not received, this will be considered an unexcused or illegal absence, and will be recorded as such on his/her permanent record.  
Specific reasons must be given for any absence, tardiness, and/or early dismissal. Notes that say, "Please dismiss my child at such and such a time" are not acceptable and will be recorded as unexcused/illegal.
3. If your child will require **MEDICATION** in school, the school nurse must have a written prescription from the doctor. Included must be the diagnosis, name of the drug, amount and time to be given to the student. An adult must bring medication to school. Do not send medication to school with your child. It may be an adult other than a parent, but *an adult must deliver medication.*
4. Students in kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grades, as well as some special education students and students new to the district are required to have a physical. The district doctor will be at Ohio during the school year, (after October 1), to give physicals to students whose parents have not provided the school with a signed physical form from their own doctor. If you need a copy of the district form, please call the school nurse at 807-3800 and one will be sent home with your son/daughter. (We do not accept forms from the doctor's office.) The district forms need to be returned to school by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. The school nurse will be in her office daily from 8:15 – 3:30. If your child will be absent or late, please call the school nurse to let her know. If you do not call, the school nurse is required to contact parents in order to find out why the child is absent. A voice mail is available if you need to call before 8:15 or if she is away from her desk. Please remember, the school nurse's first responsibility is to provide first aid and emergency care. She is not permitted to diagnose illness or give treatment for old injuries. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse at 807-3800.

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## Telephone and Cell Phone Use



Telephone use, by the student, during the school day is discouraged. Students should work with their parents to plan ahead to include homework, field trip permission slips, physical education and musical education equipment, within their preparation for each school day in order to build responsibility and organization skills.

Additionally, while students within our schools may possess mobile and digital technology, including but not limited to personal or family cell phones, possession of these items are subject to the following rules:

1. *No use of mobile or digital devices is permitted on school grounds.*
2. Students possessing these devices may NOT turn these devices on while on school grounds until the end of the official instructional day, unless during an emergency situation AND with adult permission to do so.
3. The school and/or school district is NOT responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.
4. *Should a cell phone or other device be seen or heard during the school day, these possessions may, in part or in whole, be removed by the teacher or adult in charge and held until parent pick-up can be arranged.*

### **SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION**

The North Tonawanda Police Department has informed the school district that we will no longer be receiving written notification of level 2 and 3 sex offenders through the mail as we have in the past. The Niagara County Sheriff's Department created a web site listing all the level 2 and 3 sex offenders in their jurisdiction and the NT Police Department has teamed up with them. Level 2 and 3 sex offenders residing in North Tonawanda are now on that web site.

Additionally, the web site will allow users to sign up for a notification service that will automatically notify you via e-mail every time a level 2 or 3 sex offender moves into or from place to place within Niagara County.

The Niagara County Sheriff's Department web site is [www.ncsd.com/SOR/](http://www.ncsd.com/SOR/). Please also remember that the New York State web site is [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/sor/](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/sor/). The state web site allows you to search by name, county, or zip code throughout New York. The state's toll free number is 1-800-262-3257.

The District will continue with notifications using the District newsletter and District web site [www.ntcityschools.wnyric.org](http://www.ntcityschools.wnyric.org).

### **Global Connect Program**

The North Tonawanda City School District has recently implemented the Global Connect program within our district. This program is designed to enable us to complete "mass" phone calling under emergency conditions or to share district-wide information with parents. This venue for communication proved critical during recent district events and our efforts to succeed in timely communication with all parents.

In order for this program to work most effectively, we ask you to maintain current contact information with us. If any of your contact information changes, please be certain to complete and submit your emergency contact form to Ohio's main office. We will then forward the information to our district offices so that the Global Connect system can be well maintained.

It is important that you keep us informed of any changes in your contact information throughout the year...so that we can better keep you informed!

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# *Art Room News*

*The art room is once again open for creating!*



The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders will be creating a yearlong portfolio that is taken home at the end of the year. In this portfolio, you will find a variety of art styles, artist information, and work that was created with much time and effort. Written descriptions of each piece of art help the student grow as an artist so they are able to share with others. Sixth graders will be creating a woven sketchbook that they will be working on throughout the year. All supplies are provided except for the fifth grade. All fifth graders will need to provide one BLACK FINE POINT SHARPIE marker by the second week of school.

The first and second graders will be developing a folder filled with portraits or drawings. This folder will go home in June. Monthly projects go home after they are displayed in the hallways. Everyone gets their work up a few times each year. Our halls are usually filled with wonderful work from our proud artists. It is exciting to see the growth in their coloring and art techniques. Don't miss the displays.

All the plastic frames have been taken down and washed by last year's sixth graders. They worked very hard to clean out these frames for this year's exciting artwork. Thank you last year's sixth graders! Once again framed artwork will be displayed in the cafeteria, conference room, and faculty room. Once the students begin to complete projects, the work will be selected and displayed. The work should be on display by November and the students will all be recognized in the fall newsletter. All of the artwork will be on display for the year.

Mrs. Holler will be at Ohio Elementary School on days 1, 3, and 6, as well as at Gilmore Elementary School on days 2, 4, and 5.

Just a reminder: You may want to start to purchase those special stocking stuffers such as Elmer's glue, crayons, markers, scissors, paper punches, and rulers. So many times a student would enjoy just coming home after school and "make art."

Thanks for supporting the art at Ohio Elementary School.



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