

Buckeye Bulletin



Events and happenings at Buckeye Woods Elementary School
A South-Western City School • www.swcs.us

2525 Holton Rd., Grove City, OH 43123 • (614) 801-8025

August/September 2016

From the Principal's Desk.....

AUGUST

- 22 **Open House / Kindergarten**
4:00—6:00pm
- 23 **Open House / Grades 1—4**
4:00—6:00pm
- 24 **All 4th Graders**
Staggered Start A-G (K-3)
- 25 **All 4th Graders**
Staggered Start H-O (K-3)
- 26 **All 4th Graders**
Staggered Start P-Z(K-3)
- 29 **ALL STUDENTS**

SEPTEMBER

- 05 **NO SCHOOL**
- 13 **PTA Meeting 6-7 pm**
- 22 **PTA Skating Party 6-8 pm @**
Skate America
- 29 **School Pictures**
- 30 **PTA Fall fundraiser begins**

WELCOME BACK!

*Picture Day is
September 29 ...watch for more
information to be sent home!*

Dear Buckeye Woods Learning Community Members,

At the beginning of each school year, I set out with the intention to stay focused on **only** the agendas that will move our building forward and to stay out of the weeds with items that could make us stagnant. This year will be no exception. While weeding my files, I came across my first newsletter to our community, where I introduced myself and our intentional work that would occur at Buckeye Woods. It was nice to see that after six years my commitment and goals are still aligned with my belief system of what a schools purpose is for our community. I felt the letter is still the message I would relate to our community at this point in our education journey. I have updated the original letter to reflect our current school year, but the 2011 message is still relevant.

I hope you are enjoying your summer, I would like to take this early opportunity to introduce myself as principal at Buckeye Woods. I am thrilled to be part of the South Western learning community and look forward to working with you during our next school year.

I encourage you as a parent or community member to visit Buckeye Woods and would like to share with you what you will see as you walk our hallways. The main question I answer when making a decision is: "Is it what is best for our students?"

As your principal you will see me as an instructional leader that will work with staff, parents and students to embrace instructional practices that will meet the needs of the community. As a team we will refine and constantly work toward our understanding of best practice in instruction and assessment. This will mean sustaining what is working, bringing new ideas and motivating others to bring about positive change in the ever evolving process of education.

As your principal I will work to motivate students, staff, parents and the larger community. I will hold meetings throughout the year to build our school culture and make sure all stake holders are aligned with the goals of our school. Sharing time with groups allows for the development of positive feelings regarding what school is, what our goals are and include parents in their very important role in their children's education.

Our educational teams will be developing a focus for instruction and assessment on how to meet all student needs through best instructional practices, formative assessment development and data analysis. We believe that students are the top priority and realized that students learn differently, but all students want to learn. Building a student's confidence in their ability to succeed is and should always be a top priority.

Over the course of the next year, we will have many opportunities to get to know one another better. I am excited for the upcoming school year and am equally as thrilled to be part of the Buckeye Woods family. I look forward to the upcoming days of being able to meet you.

Sincerely,
Jenniffer Kauffeld
Buckeye Woods Elementary Principal

PARENT INFORMATION

School Fees & Supplies

South-Western City Schools' Board of Education has authorized the collection of a \$20.00 instructional fee for each student. The fees collected will remain in the building to help cover instructional supply costs. **THERE IS NO NEED TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOL.** If you qualify for free lunch, school fees are waived. Please make sure to check the box on your free lunch application so that your free lunch status can be shared with our Treasurer's Office where the fees are waived. The school office is typically notified of fee waivers in October. We appreciate you paying this \$20.00 instructional fee as soon as possible. Some parents have asked about the possibility of donating items to their child's classroom. Donations are always welcome and teachers can provide you with guidance as to what items are most needed if you wish to make a donation.



School Lunches

Elementary school lunches will again be \$2.25 per day, which includes milk; \$0.40 per day for a reduced lunch and \$0.50 for milk. Breakfast prices are \$1.00 per day full price and \$0.30 cents per day for reduced price.

South-Western City Schools encourages our students to take advantage of our nutritious and tasty breakfast and lunch programs. Food service accounts are set up for all South-Western students each year, and Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) will be assigned. Meals may be purchased daily with cash or checks and can be deposited into the student's account. Please include your child's PIN number on checks to be deposited into their food service account.

Parents are encouraged to deposit money for their child's meals into their child's school account to ensure that their child has sufficient money to cover purchased meals. Meal "charges" are not permitted. Should a child not have money in their account or forget their lunch money, a nutritious alternative will be provided.

Telephone Listings

Please note the main phone number for our school, 801-8025. For the safety of your child, please report all absences as early as possible, using our automated attendance line 801-8026.

Bus Information

Students may ride only the bus to which they are assigned. An exception may be permitted in the event of an emergency and when the following criteria are met:



A signed note from a parent of each party involved and when there is sufficient space available on the bus. For safety reasons, phone requests cannot be accepted.

When a student will be riding a bus other than his/her own, or riding as a guest, the student is to bring his/her parental permission note to the office at the beginning of the day. The office staff will authorize a guest ride pass and notify the transportation department of the change in ride status.

Due to late enrollments and route changes, buses may run late at the start of the school year.

Community Service Line

Do you ever have a question that pops into your head and you don't know where you can call after office hours? We can help. The district has a 24-hour voice mailbox that you can call to get help quickly. Call 801-8981, leave your message, and a way to get back with you. Someone from the district's communications office will call you back with the information you need.

PARENT INFORMATION

BUCKEYE WOODS INFORMATION AND REMINDERS 2016-2017



Buckeye Woods welcomes you as part of our school family and encourages parental, guardian and community involvement. We want to take this opportunity if you are new to our building, to share our procedures that are in place to provide the best possible safe environment for your child. If you are a returning parent, these are reminders of our efforts in working toward our common goals.

Change in transportation for students

If you need to change what is the normal afternoon transportation for your child, we must have a written note that a student gives to his/her teacher in the morning or a guardian come to the office in person. We cannot take request over the phone. With safety and legal issues we cannot be sure who is on the phone requesting the change and your child's safety is our number one priority.

Dropping your child off

We have a drop off lane on the east side of the building that becomes very congested in the morning. We ask that you pull as far forward as possible to let your child out of the car. There will be staff there to assist you and to keep the line moving. **Students may not be let out of a vehicle in the parking lot unless** an adult is walking with them to or from the building. We also ask that you do not use the bus lane to drop your child off. We have busses arriving at many different times and the front of the building is designated for busses and emergency vehicles only.

Open doors and the first week of school

The only doors that will be open for students to enter in the morning will be the main entrance, east side kindergarten doors and the west back parking lot entrance for walkers. **If you are walking your child into the building, please use the main entrance**, so we do not have unfamiliar faces in the hallways for staff or students. All doors, except for the main entrance, will be locked at 8:20.

Walking your child to class

IF parents would like to walk their child to his/her classroom, you may do so from August 24- 30 .On Wednesday, August 31, all students will begin walking to class by themselves.

Right turn only during restricted hours

Due to the congested traffic during our peak drop off and pick up hours only a right can be made out of the parking lot.

Building entry

Our building is open to students at 8:00. Bus riders and students that are dropped off go to the gym until 8:10. Students begin going to class at 8:10 and our instructional day begins at 8:20 and ends at 2:35. At the end of our day the busses will be released first, then our walkers are released through our east side entrance or the west back parking lot doors.

End of day student pick up

If you are picking up your child you must get out of your car and wait for them outside on the east side of the building. We have school personnel to help with this effort.

Tardies

In the past, we have had significant numbers of tardy students each day from our drop off area. If a student enters the building after 8:20, he/she must stop at the office and sign in. If there are many students that are late this can make a student up to 5 minutes or later to class. Even if you are sitting in the drop off line at 8:10, if your child is not in his/her classroom at 8:20 he/she is considered tardy. Please try to arrive early enough that your child does not to have to sign in before going to class. If your child is tardy you must walk them into our office and sign them in on our computer system.

PARENT INFORMATION

BUCKEYE WOODS INFORMATION AND REMINDERS 2016-2017

Visitor ID System

Whether you are a volunteer, eating lunch with your child, picking up a child, or doing a presentation for a class, you will need to enter through the main entrance and check in at the office. If our office staff does not recognize you, you will be asked to show a photo ID and then proceed to our Visitor ID computer to have a badge made that must be worn at all times while you are in our building. All visitors (unless otherwise approved) must be listed on the student's emergency information that parents fill out on the computer at the beginning of the year. This is to ensure that no one is in our building without parental permission.

Volunteering

If you are a parent volunteer, we want to thank you for your time! When you come to our building, please stop by the office and follow the sign in procedures. If our office staff does not recognize you, you may be asked to show a photo ID and then have a photo ID name tag made that will allow staff and students to know you are supposed to be in our building. If you are a morning volunteer we ask that you wait until 8:30 to sign in and go to the classroom.

Class visits

We welcome you to visit your child's classroom, but in order to avoid interruptions and disruptions to our students' education we ask that you make prior arrangements with the teacher. Please inform the teacher of your general purpose of the visit or observation in advance. If your child left something at home that he/she needs during the day, drop it off at the office and we will make sure it gets to him/her.

Meeting with your child's teachers

At 8:20 your child's teacher becomes responsible for all of our students in our hallways and in their classroom until school dismisses. We asked that if you wish to meet with your child's teacher you schedule an appointment by e-mail or phone so the teacher can meet during a time when he/she is available.

Lunch with your child

At any point in our school year you are welcome to join your child for lunch. We ask that you sign in the office and wait until your child's class is in the cafeteria to join him/ her. We have a special area, beside our main café (LUNCH WITH FRIENDS ROOM) for you to have lunch with your child. With 750 students we have to utilize all café space for our classes. Please do not bring lunch for students other than your child or ask other students to sit with you and your child. We have had situations occur that have caused medical concerns with students. After lunch we ask that you sign out in the office. Please do not go to recess with your child or walk your child back to his/ her classroom.

Food Consumption at School

South-Western City Elementary Schools will not accept cupcakes, cookies or any other birthday party foods to be distributed during class time. Balloon and other arrangements that cannot fit into your child's backpack are not appropriate for school and are not allowed on the bus. For the safety of all students we will not be accepting food donations from home for any event during the school day unless specifically asked for and reviewed by school staff. The principal and PTA's will work together to develop a process that provides food for classroom parties.

We, the staff at Buckeye Woods, want you to know that every decision that is made will be based on what is best for students, as a whole. Our procedures are for the safety and well being of all of our students. Please feel free to contact our office, teachers or the principal with any concerns you may have throughout the school year.



PARENT INFORMATION

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

One of the important features of Infinite Campus is the Campus Parent Portal. The Portal is available to every parent/guardian of a student enrolled within the South-Western City School District. Through the Portal, parents will be able to access their students' information, such as class schedules, coursework, attendance and academic reports via the Internet. Parents will also be able to submit updates to emergency and family contact information via the Portal.

You will be receiving your Campus Portal Activation Key in the Back to School Letter being mailed home in August, prior to the start of school. Please keep this letter in a safe location and do not share your Activation Key with anyone - even your children. More information will be coming home about this technology as we start the school year.

PayPAMS

The South-Western City School District utilizes a system called PayPAMS, which allows parents a safe and convenient way to prepay for student meals online. PayPAMS allows parents to pay for their child's meals from the convenience of home 24/7; view their child's account balance; schedule automatic payments based on account balance; receive low balance e-mail reminders; and view a report of daily spending and cafeteria purchases by their child.

For more information on PayPAMS, please visit the following area of the District Web site and take a tour of the system and/or read the helpful tips and answers to frequently asked questions:

<https://sites.google.com/a/swcsd.us/food-service/PayPAMS>

Class Lists

Please remember that class lists are **NOT** final. You will have received a postcard in the mail with transportation information and a homeroom. That **homeroom assignment is tentative** as we must wait until summer enrollment is almost complete and grade level numbers are determined before we can finalize teacher and student placement. Class lists will be posted at open house.

Staggered Start

Grades K-3 only will again participate in a staggered start schedule to allow for testing of students.

Students in grades K-3 whose last names begin with A-G will report on Wednesday, August 24, letters H-O on Thursday, August 25, and letters P-Z on Friday, August 26. ALL students will begin reporting daily on Monday, August 29.



Hi, my name is Michelle Sherrick and I am the incoming PTA president this year at Buckeye Woods. We welcome back returning parents and greet new parents as the school year begins. We hope that you decide to join.

Many times we hear parents ask, "Why should I join PTA?" That is such a great question and in an article written by Cheryl Butler, she lists some great reasons why your participation is so important.

1. Studies show that when parents get involved, their children do better in school.
2. You will be in the know. The PTA usually plans many of the events at the school.
3. Joining PTA allows you to have the opportunity to meet other parents and to get to know the staff, helping to build a positive rapport.
4. Show you care by becoming a role model and demonstrating to your child the importance that you place on their education.
5. Help make positive changes to the school.
6. Your child will feel a sense of pride. Children love to see their parents actively involved at their school.

Our PTA at Buckeye Woods is very active and provides many activities and services to both the students and staff. Without parent participation, many services would not be possible. Some of the services and activities the PTA provides are as listed:

4th grade party

Book fair

Spring carnival

Holiday store

Father/daughter dance

Mother/son event

Scholarships

Classroom books

Clinic supplies

Transportation for field trips

Publishing shop

Science family Nights

Scholastic Magazines

Reflections Art Program

We hope you take the time to join the PTA and become an active member! **We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the school cafeteria.** The cost to join is \$5. Look for membership information at open house or in your child's school folder. If you have any questions, our email address is buckeyewoodspta@gmail.com.

Thank you!

