



Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we have already completed the first month of school. It has been an exciting month. Our students have settled into the daily routines of school and are busy learning. October is going to be another busy month. During the month of October, we will have vision and hearing screenings, Fire Safety Week, Kindergarten Readiness Assessments, 3rd grade AIR assessments in English Language Arts, and our Halloween parade and parties. That's a lot packed into the month. For details, see the calendar of events on page 6.

I want to thank everyone for their support of Hilltop Elementary. The turnout for our first PTA meeting was incredible. We have an outstanding PTA that is committed to making Hilltop a great school. Please get involved in PTA, it is a great organization that is here to benefit your students.

Hilltop Elementary School will be hosting a Parent & Principal Night this year to gather and share information about our building with parents. All Hilltop parents are welcome to attend and participate. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Hilltop Lobby. The presentation will focus on Third Grade Reading Guarantee, statewide testing, and building security. Please RSVP to Kathy Palumbo at 330.533.9806 by Tuesday, October 23rd if you plan to attend. A second Parents & Principal meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2019.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a great month.

Joe Maroni

Hilltop Pantry

Thank you to everyone who has donated food and supplies to make our Hilltop Pantry a reality. We are now able to distribute food to those in need.

If you need assistance, please contact the Hilltop office to let us know how we can assist you.

All information will be kept strictly confidential.

If you are willing to help provide supplies, please contact the Hilltop office to discuss what items are needed.

You can reach the Hilltop office at 330.533.9806 or email me at

jmaroni@canfieldschools.net.

Before-School, After-School Care

Canfield Local Schools has partnered with Zion Christian Early Learning Center to offer before-care and after-care to our students. The program will be held at Hilltop Elementary School for students from both C. H. Campbell and Hilltop. C. H. Campbell students will be transported to and from Hilltop each day utilizing our shuttle bus. The program runs from 6:30 a.m. until the start of school each day and from the end of school until 5:30 p.m. The cost of the program is \$5.20/hour for the 1st child in a family and \$4.00/hr for additional family members. If you are interested in the program, please contact Zion Christian Early Learning Center at (330) 792-4066.

Statewide Testing

All students in grades 3-4 will be administered standardized testing in English Language Arts and Mathematics through the American Institutes for Research (AIR) testing platform. Testing dates for the 2018-2019 school year are listed below. Please try to avoid these dates when scheduling appointments and vacations. Thank you.

| <u>English/Language Arts</u> | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grade 3: October 23-24, 2018 | |
| Grade 3: April 3-4, 2019 | Grade 4: April 1-2, 2019 |
| <u>Mathematics</u> | |
| Grades 3: April 10-11, 2019 | Grade 4: April 8-9, 2019 |

Lunches

The price for a school lunch is \$2.40, with extra milk costing \$0.40. Please make checks out to Hilltop Cafeteria. We encourage all families to utilize our computer-based prepaid system. This system allows the cafeteria to keep track of food allergies and other student needs in the cafeteria. To learn more about our prepaid system or to view the current menu, please go to: www.canfieldlocalschoolsfoodservice.com. We are asking parents to view the website and check the menu each day. We will not be sending home monthly menus as we have done in the past. Students received their lunch number in their teacher assignment letter. Parents are welcome to come and enjoy lunch with their children, however we ask that you only eat with your child and sit at one of the small tables closest to the entrance. **Parents are not permitted to stay for recess. Parents will be provided with two lunch tickets each year to allow them, or another special person, to eat lunch with their child. Lunch tickets must be handed in upon signing in at the main office and may not be duplicated. Student friends are not permitted to accompany your child to the designated parent lunch area. Parents will always be permitted to take their child out to lunch during the child's assigned lunch/recess times. During the first and last two weeks of school parents will not be permitted to eat lunch with their child so that lunchroom routines may be established. Parents may begin having lunch with their children on Monday, September 17, 2018. The last day to have lunch with your child will be on Friday, May 24, 2019.**

Lunch Times for 2018-2019:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Kindergarten: | 10:45-11:15 | Grade 3: | 11:45-12:15 |
| Grade 1: | 11:15-11:45 | Grade 4: | 12:45-1:15 |
| Grade 2: | 12:15-12:45 | | |

Birthday Treats

Birthday treats should be placed in the office until lunch time. Food treats must be distributed and eaten inside the cafeteria. Students should notify the lunch-room aides if they have a birthday treat in the cafeteria BEFORE passing it out due to allergy concerns. Only students in the child's class are permitted to have a treat. Please do not pass extras out to students in other classrooms. All extra treats will be placed in the school office. Students are not permitted to take extra treats around to teacher classrooms due to allergy concerns.

Helping our School

We collect Box Tops, Campbell Soup Labels, Tyson labels, and Sunny Delight labels. Please drop off your labels and box tops in the main lobby. You can also register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card under the Apples for the Students Program at www.gianteagle.com/schools/apples-for-students. Registering your Advantage Card will allow us to get a percentage of everything that registered users purchase. These are some easy ways to help our schools provide the best education to our students.

Attendance

All the Canfield Schools will be following the Attendance Policy written in the Parent Handbook. Please become familiar with this policy. If your child is absent, please call the school on the day of the absence. When your child returns to school, please remember to send a note with your child. The note should be dated, list the reason for the absence, and be signed by the parent. If you take your child to the doctor, please send a doctor's note to the school office containing the date of the appointment. Notes from parents and medical excuses must be received in the office within 24 hours of the student's return to school in order for the absence to be verified.

Students who arrive after 8:45 are considered tardy and must come to the office and sign in accompanied by a parent. Please do not drop your student off after 8:45 without bringing them to the office.

School Safety

We all want our students to be safe at school and you can help us by following the directions below.

1. When visiting the school, ring the buzzer and identify yourself to school staff.
2. Upon entering the building, go directly to the office, sign in, and get a visitor badge to wear.
3. If you come into the school to pick up your child, please wait in the office while we call your child down.
4. If your child is to go home in a different way than usual, please send a note with your child in the morning. Please do not call after 12:00 p.m. Each unanticipated request to have a student dismissed from class requires a call or visit to the classroom. Our goal is to keep the disruptions to the educational environment to a minimum.
5. Please do not drive into the busing lanes from 8:15-8:45a.m. or 3:00-3:35 p.m.

We want the entire community to feel welcomed in our school and want all of our students and staff to be safe. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Transportation

If you ride the school bus, you will need to be at the bus stop by 7:55 a.m. until the bus route times are established. It is very important for parents to be home each day. Our buses leave Hilltop Elementary School at approximately 3:30 p.m. each day.

Morning Drop-off Information

1. Parents who plan on driving their children to school should not drop off students prior to 8:30 am. Due to a lack of supervisory personnel, students will not be permitted into the building until 8:30 am.
2. The area in front of the school must be kept clear of traffic so that buses can safely drop off children. Cars should not park or drop off their children using the busing lanes in front of the school. Students can be dropped off at the 3rd and 4th grade entrance on the west side of the building.

After School Car Riders

Parents who plan on picking students up at the conclusion of the day should follow our Loop Pick-Up Procedures.

1. Car riders will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Parents planning on picking up their children from school should contact the office before 12:00 p.m.
2. All children must be supervised as they are released to their parents and/or pick-up designee. Parents should pull up to the fourth grade doors. Please put your child's pass in the window so the adults can see the name. ALL children must get in the sidewalk side of the car. Please help your child buckle up quickly so we can keep traffic moving. We will have three teachers on duty to help the process go faster. Please wait until you are given the signal to exit the lot. Children MUST be safely in the cars before the group of cars can exit. We ask that you exit the lot ASAP so we can eliminate wait time.

Kindergarten Update

The kindergarteners have had a great first month of school! The children have adjusted well to school and are making friends that may last a lifetime! The kindergarten teachers are so pleased with how well the children have made the adjustment to kindergarten and are enjoying watching new friendships blossom. October will be a busy month. Our learning units will focus on the Fall season. In our Bridges in Math curriculum, we will quickly recognize how many objects are in a collection (up to 5) without counting, compare sets using the words more and less, and develop number sense with combinations that make 5, and then 10. We will continue reading big books and poetry during our Shared Reading lessons, and explore the writing process using interactive writing lessons.

1st Grade Update

First Grade is busy settling into our routines. We are practicing our reading skills and learning about strategies that will help us with our reading. We will be working with our Guided Reading groups and applying our skills as we work on word recognition, fluency and comprehension. In Math, we have been working on "quick counting" skills and will be moving to strategies for addition. Thank you for your help and cooperation with the weekly math homework that will be coming home on Tuesdays. Math homework is due the following Monday. In Science we are discussing "fall" and changes that we observe in the environment around us. In Social Studies, we have been discussing "rules around us" and how to be good friends. Life is busy and happy in First Grade!

2nd Grade Update

Second Graders are categorizing things in our environment and deciding if they are living or nonliving. We look forward to having a visitor from the Green Team visit our classrooms and focusing on composting. Second graders will soon be saving organic materials from their school lunches to add to our school's compost bin. Kindergartners will then use the compost to fertilize their gardens.

3rd Grade Update

Third grade students have been working hard, and have been learning very important skills and strategies to help them maximize their success in third grade! We are beginning the structure of Guided Reading with independent work and small groups. We are also working on new math strategies and building on what students already know in math. Most importantly, rather than just writing the answer, third graders are learning to think about math. In Social Studies we are reading maps and discussing communities. In Science we will review tools and begin Earth Science.

4th Grade Update

The students are adjusting well to fourth grade. In science, they are working on science safety, scientific tools, and measurement in science. In social studies, the focus has been on map skills and geography. In math, the students are working on addition and subtraction strategies as well as place value, especially expanded form. Please practice flash cards at home. In language arts, the students are reading a variety of genres with a focus on specific skills. They are also working on becoming better writers.

Early Dismissal

If you are picking your child up from school before the end of the day, please notify the office by noon. Recently, we have had several calls as late as 3:00 pm asking for students to be notified that they would be picked up early. It is very difficult to make dismissal changes that late in the school day due to the disruption to end of the day procedures. Thank you for your cooperation.

Music

It's great to see all of our returning students and great to meet our new Kindergarten students in the Music Room! So far this year, returning students have been reviewing basic music concepts such as: correct singing posture, instrument names, classroom instrument playing techniques, and performing rhythmic patterns. Kindergarten students are learning new songs and accompanying dances, learning about and performing steady beat, and identifying and demonstrating loud/soft, high/low, and fast/slow. It looks like it is going to be a fun year of music-making!

Library

The students are enjoying being back in the library and exploring books. The first weeks of library were spent reviewing book care. When possible, please keep water bottles out of backpacks. Last year there were several damaged books due to water leaking. It is suggested that the students keep their library books in their book bags when they are not reading them so that they always have them on library day and they always know where they are. Please help your child get their book back on their library day so they can join in on the excitement of choosing a new book. I am also asking for a small photo of your child reading for our bulletin board (photo will be returned). Keep reading!

Physical Education

This Fall we began with reviewing class rules, routines and safety procedures in Physical Education. Please have your children wear tennis shoes in P.E. We started off with soccer foot skills, practicing how to dribble, pass and shoot. Children put their skills to use playing in small-sided soccer games. Our next focus was football, working on throwing and catching. Younger students participated in some fun target game activities that challenged their throwing and aiming skills. Older students played Razzle Dazzle football. In October we will be working with lacrosse sticks and then hockey sticks, learning how to properly and safely handle them. In lacrosse we will catch and pass yarn balls and then tennis balls and play a game called STX Ball with the older students. In floor hockey we will pass and shoot at goals with bean bags and soft pucks, playing hockey type activities with the younger students.

Art

Heading into Fall, we will be approaching art from a multicultural standpoint. We will be looking into the ways in which each student can become aware of and take pride in their own cultural identity, while gaining respect and appreciation for other cultures. We are investigating the intentions of various artists from around the world, while trying to understand our own attitudes - in order to motivate our own art.

If you have not already done so, please grant parental permission to view your child's artwork on Artsonia, our new online art museum! (You recently received an email with directions on how to grant permission.)

Birthday Treats

Birthday celebrations are so important and we appreciate that you want to help your child celebrate their special day with their classmates, however with all the childhood allergies that are prevalent in elementary schools today it is very important that we take every precaution. Please let your teacher know in advance that you are planning to send in a birthday treat. This will help the teacher plan for children who may not be able to eat that special treat. It is very important that ALL treats come into the office. Birthday treats should be placed in the office until lunch time. Food treats must be distributed and eaten inside the cafeteria. Students should notify the lunch-room aides if they have a birthday treat in the cafeteria BEFORE passing it out due to allergy concerns. Only students in the child's class are permitted to have a treat. Please do not pass extras out to students in other classrooms. All extra treats will be placed in the school office. Students are not permitted to take extra treats around to teacher classrooms due to allergy concerns.

HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Canfield, Ohio 44406

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Canfield Local Schools Vision Statement

We will create an educational environment which challenges each student to achieve at their highest potential, leading to top 10 rankings in Ohio by 2022.

Canfield Local Schools Mission Statement

As a community, we educate, motivate, and innovate for individual lifelong success.

We're on the Web!

**[http://cvms.canfield.k12.oh.us/
~hilltop/](http://cvms.canfield.k12.oh.us/~hilltop/)**

Important Dates

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| October 1: | Fall Fundraiser ends |
| October 8-12: | Fire Safety Week |
| October 9 & 11: | Vision and Hearing Screening |
| October 10: | Fire Safety Day with Canfield Fire Department |
| October 16: | KRA testing (Kindergarten) |
| October 17: | KRA testing (Kindergarten) |
| October 17: | Board of Education Meeting (6:00 pm) |
| October 23: | AIR Assessment– English/Language Arts (3rd grade) |
| October 24: | AIR Assessment– English/Language Arts (3rd grade) |
| October 25 | Parents & Principal (6:00 pm) |
| Oct 29-Nov 2: | Spirit Week |
| October 31: | Halloween Parade and Parties (1:45 pm) |

Quotes of the Month

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” -Kofi Annan

“Children really can brighten up a house, because they never turn the lights off.” -Ralph Bus