



## Principal's Message

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Happy 2019! It is going to be a great year and a year full of new and exciting things. Yes, 2019 will have its challenges, but working together, we can overcome whatever obstacles the year may bring and celebrate reaching new achievements. One promise that I will make this year is that we will continue to work very hard to provide the best educational experiences for our students and families.

The biggest event of January is our annual Dinner with Dad. Dinner with Dad will take place on Thursday, January 24th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman. Reservations will be due by January 18th. This is a great way for our dads to spend some quality time with their kids. We will have great food and a DJ for entertainment. PTO will also be raffling off some really impressive gift baskets. It should be a great night. We look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to say Thank You to everyone who sent gifts to me for the holidays. The kindness and generosity of our Hilltop families never ceases to amaze me. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this outstanding school district.

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

Joe Maroni

## Important Dates

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January 2, 2019:

School Resumes

January 8/9/10:

2nd grade CogAT testing

January 10:

Literacy Night (6:00-7:30 pm)

January 15:

2nd grade Iowa Reading Assessment

January 16:

2nd grade Iowa Mathematics Assessment

January 21:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)

January 24:

Dinner with Dad @ Mr. Anthony's (6-8 pm)

January 25:

PTA General Meeting (9:00 am– Cafeteria)

February 4-8:

Jump Rope for Heart

February 13:

Valentine's Day parties

February 14:

Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:00-9:00 pm)

February 15-17:

Mid-Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

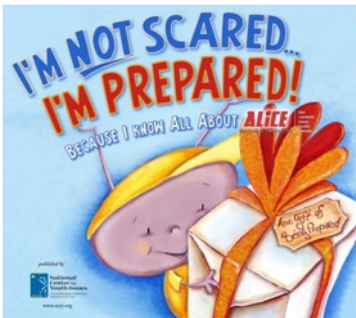
# Building Safety and Security

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Canfield Local Schools has adopted a strategy for lockdown procedures known as the A.L.I.C.E. plan. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. The A.L.I.C.E. plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of surviving.

Younger students need constant reminders of safe practices in order for them to make good decisions related to their personal safety. Parents can prepare their child(ren) for the A.L.I.C.E. plan by helping them understand the following objectives at home.

- There are people of all ages, color, and types who can be mean and may wish to harm them.
- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are hard and getting better each time.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When your child is prepared for difficult situations, they can make informed decisions and will have more self-control.
- Your child is smart and capable if they have the knowledge.
- Help your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child demonstrate the ability to get away from someone who has their hands on them.
- Have your child explain the different safety drills and what they mean.
- Help your child name where they need to go in case of evacuation (different for each classroom).
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher’s directions without hesitation.



ALICE collaborated with ‘Award Winning’ children’s author Julia Cook to create an Age Appropriate instruction storybook that **teachers and parents** can use as a tool to teach the ALICE concepts to elementary aged school children. Cook’s books have been referenced in publications such as: **Parents Magazine; The New Yorker; Chicago Tribune; Yahoo.com; Dr. Laura.com and BabyZone.com**

The teacher at the Ant Hill School wants her students to be prepared—for everything! One day, she teaches her students what to do if a “dangerous someone” is in their school.

*I’m Not Scared...I’m Prepared!* enhances the concepts taught by the ALICE Training Institute, and make them applicable to children of all ages in a **non-fearful** way. By using this book, children can develop a better understanding of what needs to be done if they ever encounter a “dangerous someone.” Lessons in the book include:

***Listen to the teacher and the announcements***

***There are ways to help the teacher barricade the door***

***There may be a time to go to a rally point with or without the teacher***

This is a great resource that we have provided to our staff to use with our young students. There are several YouTube videos of the book being read available online.

We have also purchased the companion, *I’m Not Scared, I’m Prepared Activity and Idea Book*, which will provide our teachers with ways to protect their students and classroom.

## The Pantry at Hilltop

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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 are willing to help provide supplies, here is a list of some of the items that we collect and distribute:

Applesauce	Crackers	Peanut Butter
Canned Pasta Sauce	Fruit (Canned or Dried)	Rice
Canned Chicken	Granola Bars	Juice Boxes
Canned Fish (Tuna/Salmon)	Instant Mashed Potatoes	Soup/Stew/Chili
Canned Meat (SPAM/Ham)	Meals in a Box	Whole Grain Cereal
Canned Vegetables	Nuts	Macaroni and Cheese
Cooking Oils	Pasta	

Items we are currently in need of include: canned soup, canned fruit, cereal, juice boxes, pasta sauce, and graham crackers.

Try to avoid:

- junk food
- items with glass or cellophane packaging, which can be broken in transit
- things that need can openers or special equipment (pop-top cans—whether for veggies, meat or fruit—are a plus)

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.

You can reach the Hilltop office at 330.533.9806 or email me at [jmaroni@canfieldschools.net](mailto:jmaroni@canfieldschools.net)


## Before-School, After-School Care

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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](http://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		

## Helping our School

We collect Box Tops, 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](http://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

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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

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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

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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

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Happy New Year! Kindergartners will be jumping into the new year by learning how to write all uppercase letters. We will begin "tapping" (sounding out) 3 letter short vowel words. In math, students will work on measuring objects using non-standard forms of measurement and writing numbers 11-20. Our unit studies will focus on the winter season and animals that hibernate.

## 1st Grade Update

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First grade is enjoying our winter wonderland! We are setting goals for the New Year as we begin the second half of first grade! We are observing changes in our environment and learning about winter animals. In writing, we are practicing our skills as we learn to create "How-to" pieces. Our Math unit involves using the number line as a tool for counting and solving problems. We will also be using penguins as a context for measuring and comparing our heights with theirs! As always, we are encouraging the children to keep warm by snuggling up with their favorite book and keep up that wonderful reading practice at home!

## 2nd Grade Update

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Thank you to everyone who attended our "Holidays Around the World Program" in December. We enjoyed learning about different customs and traditions from various countries around the world. We look forward to setting personal goals for school and at home so that we can start the new year working hard to achieve them. We will be observing different weather changes throughout the winter season. In math, we will continue to use strategies to add and subtract two-digit numbers within one-hundred.

## 3rd Grade Update

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Happy New Year from third grade! We have enjoyed learning about cultures from Around the World. Third grade students have been spending time sharing and learning from their peers. In Science we will be studying energy and the different types of energy. The students be introduced to renewable and non-renewable resources in January. The children will continue to read a variety of genres in guided reading. The students are working on the writing and reading connection. In Math, we will be working on multi- step problems and the many possible ways these can be solved. We will also be digging deeper into fractions and telling time.

## 4th Grade Update

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Fourth Grade continues to work hard at all they do. Guided reading groups are working on the reading skills students need daily. Writing narratives and persuasive pieces are the focus for practicing great writing skills. In social studies, the students are going to be learning about Ohio's involvement in the War of 1812. In science, the students will be wrapping up their fast/slow earth changing processes unit. In math, the focus will be on fractions.

## Art

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Our focus in the Art Room during January will be upon the *"Foundations of Art"* or *The Elements of Art* and *The Principles of Design*. In this unit, we will be observing the Masters and the ways in which they used the basic elements, like line, shape, color, form, space, texture and value in their works of art. We will be using those same elements and principles, as we create our own masterpieces!

## Music

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Attention third graders and parents: It's time to start learning how to play the recorder! In January, you will receive a letter explaining the recorder program. There will be an order form attached to the letter to return with payment for the students' recorder and lesson book. Please keep an eye out for this letter. I will have it to you shortly!

Fourth Graders and Parents: Please start looking for the recorder and lesson book that you purchased last year, as we will be using those again this year. If you lost either one, or are new to our school, I will have order forms available to you as well at the beginning of the new year.

## Library

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Wonderful things are happening in the library! Kindergartners recently started choosing their book from the shelves while the first graders just started checking out two books from the library - including chapter books. There are several students who have missing books. Please check with your child to see if they have a lost library book. Notices will be coming home in the next few weeks. I suggest that library books be kept in the child's book bag so that they always have them here at school and are less likely to lose them.

In computers we will be exploring coding and playing with some new robots. We are very excited to incorporate this new technology into the library!

## Physical Education

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The first week back from winter break, our physical education classes will be learning about Tae Kwon Do from Master Justin Taylor of the Junior Tae Kwon Do School in Boardman. Next we will move into basketball working on dribbling, passing and shooting. Students will use these skills in playing various basketball activities per grade level. Getting back into shape with jumping rope is the focus for the end of the month. We will again be participating in our February fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Jump Rope For Heart has recently been renamed and is now called The Kids Heart Challenge! Hilltoppers will be doing The Kids Heart Challenge the week of February 4th through 8th 2019. Please register for our school team at [heart.org/kidsheartchallenge](http://heart.org/kidsheartchallenge) or by searching Kids Heart Challenge in the app. store on your mobile device. Our students are learning all about what they can do to keep their hearts healthy and how they can help others by collecting donations for the American Heart Association. A parent letter will be coming home soon with additional information.

## Birthday Treats

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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 and remain there 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. Students are not permitted to take extra treats around to teacher classrooms due to allergy concerns. If at all possible, you could include nutritional information on the treat; it would be helpful and appreciated.



**HILLTOP ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

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Canfield, Ohio 44406

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<http://www.canfield.access-k12.org/hilltop>

**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.*

**Canfield Local Schools on Twitter:  
@CLS\_Cardinals**

**Quotes of the Month**

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*“Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.”* - Goran Persson

*“I have no way of knowing how people really feel, but the vast majority of those I meet couldn't be nicer. Every once in a while someone barks at me. My New Year's resolution is not to bark back.”* - Tucker Carlson