



## Principal's Message

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Amazingly, 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 8.

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 24, 2019 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 22nd if you plan to attend. A second Parents & Principal meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2020.

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

Joe Maroni

## PBIS

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Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is an approach schools can use to improve school safety and promote positive behavior. It also helps schools decide how to respond to a child who misbehaves.

At its heart, PBIS calls on schools to teach kids about behavior, just as they would teach about any other subject—like reading or math. PBIS recognizes that kids can only meet behavior expectations if they know what the expectations are. A hallmark of a school using PBIS is that everyone knows what the appropriate behaviors are. Throughout the school day—in class, at lunch and on the bus—kids understand what's expected of them.

The foundation of PBIS at C. H. Campbell and Hilltop in Canfield are the building-wide expectations of:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Responsible**
- **Be Respectful**

Our behavior expectations are presented in our 1) **Behavior matrix**, which will be posted in all areas of the school environment, as well as 2) **Direct teaching through lesson plans** which helps students engage in the expected behavior.

## 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 2019-2020 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 22-23, 2019	
Grade 3: April 1-2, 2020	Grade 4: March 30-31, 2020
<u>Mathematics</u>	
Grades 3: April 29-30, 2020	Grade 4: April 27-28, 2020

## Lunches

The price for a school lunch is \$2.45, 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 16, 2019. The last day to have lunch with your child will be on Friday, May 22, 2020.**

### Lunch Times for 2019-2020:

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. Please do not send extra treats. Students are not permitted to take extra treats around to teacher classrooms due to allergy concerns. Do not send treats that need to be cut, refrigerated, or frozen. Extra treats will be discarded.

## 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](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, even if they are dropped off in the Loop, 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 3:00-3:40 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.

## 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.

## The Pantry at Hilltop

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Our pantry is starting it's second year. We are thankful for everyone who has donated items in the past, but our need continues. If you are willing to help provide supplies, here is a list of some of the items that we collect and distribute:

### Items we are currently in need of the items listed below:

Juice Boxes	Fruit (Canned or Dried)
Soup/Stew/Chili	Granola Bars
Canned Chicken	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Fish (Tuna/Salmon)	Meals in a Box
Canned Meat (SPAM/Ham)	

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)

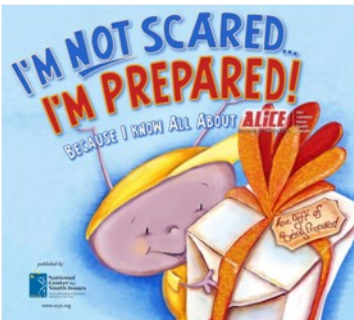
# Building Safety and Security

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).

*ALICE collaborated with ‘Award Winning’ children’s author Julia Cook to create an Age Appropriate instruction story-book 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.

## Kindergarten Update

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The Kindergarten students have had a great first month of school! The children have become acclimated to our school and have learned the rules and routines of kindergarten. Friendships have been formed and we are busy learning! During the month of October, our math lessons will focus on learning to quickly recognize how many objects are in a collection without counting, comparing sets using the vocabulary words more and less, developing number sense with combinations that make 5 and 10, and building with two-dimensional shapes. We will begin our sight word instruction program in October, as well as we prepare for guided reading. We will be learning about the fall season and will enjoy a fall presentation from the Green Team.

## 1st Grade Update

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First grade is busy settling in to 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

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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

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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, third graders are learning to think about math and not just write the answer. In social studies we are reading maps and discussing communities. In science we will review tools and begin earth science.

## 4th Grade Update

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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 multiplication and division strategies. 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.

## Music

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We are busy, busy, busy in the music room already this year! The Kindergartners are getting settled in at Hilltop Elementary and learning about steady beat, loud and soft, and how to use their singing voices. The first, second and fourth grades have been learning about dynamic levels, such as piano, forte, mezzo piano, and fortissimo. Last, but not least, our third graders have been reviewing the instruments of the orchestra, as well as learning about the human voice and the various voice types, such as soprano, alto, tenor and bass. It's been a very productive time so far!

## Library

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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 excited for the fun things that we are going to do this year in library and with STEAM! Keep reading!

## Physical Education

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This fall we began with reviewing class rules, routines and safety procedures in physical education. Please have your children wear tennis shoes with socks in P.E. We started off with football, working on correct grip, opposition when throwing and then catching the football. Older students played Razzle Dazzle and Flag Football in small-sided games. The younger students worked on throwing various types of balls using underhand and overhand throws, aiming at targets and practiced throwing and catching with partners.

In October older grades will go into soccer with foot skills, dribbling and passing and shooting. Students will put their soccer skills to use playing in small-sided games. We will move into learning lacrosse skills using yarn, whiffle, and then tennis balls and then play a game called Stx Ball which really hones in on good passes and catches. Younger children will begin working on the different locomotor skills, then learn to dribble, trap and pass soccer balls and shoot at goals. We will later bring out the big parachute working on listening skills to have some great fun with all the parachute play activities I have planned for them.

We will also celebrate fall with our traditional October Fun Gym having various skill stations that our students rotate through in class.

Also, a congratulations goes out to two of our Hilltoppers who were winners in the annual Create a Cover Contest in the "Ohio Schools" magazine. Maria Meranto and Andy Mills both gained recognition in K-4th grade category. Their art designs were featured in the June 2019 issue and both Hilltoppers won a \$25.00 Barnes and Noble gift card!

## Art

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In the art room, we will be focusing upon the history of art. Students will be learning about specific movements and time periods throughout history. Together, we will be observing artists within movements and exploring the ways in which our art and artists have influenced the world today. From a look at lines made by early cave dwellers to pop artists to local landscape artists and portrait artists, we will be making connections with our lives today.

## HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Canfield, Ohio 44406  
Phone: 330.533.9806  
Fax: 330.702.7051  
[www.canfield.access-k12.org/hilltop](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.*

**Visit us on Twitter!**  
**@CLS\_Cardinals**

## Important Dates

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October 7-11	Fire Safety Week
October 8 & 10:	Vision and Hearing Screening
October 9:	Fire Safety Day with Canfield Fire Department
October 15:	KRA testing (Kindergarten)
October 16:	KRA testing (Kindergarten)
October 17:	Board of Education Meeting (6:00 pm)
October 22:	AIR Assessment– English/Language Arts (3rd grade)
October 23:	AIR Assessment– English/Language Arts (3rd grade)
October 24	Parents & Principal (6:00 pm)
Oct 28-Nov 1:	Spirit Week
October 31:	Halloween Parade and Parties (1:45 pm)
November 1-5:	PTA Candy Drive

## Quotes of the Month

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*“Don't be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves.” -Dale Carnegie*

*“Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”- Walt Disney*