



Principal's Message

November is a time when we focus on Thanksgiving. I know that I am very lucky to have a wonderful and supportive family, nice home, and the ability to do a job that I have always wanted to do. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to work with the outstanding staff, students, and parents of Hilltop Elementary School. The professionalism of the staff and the smiling faces of our students truly make my job very enjoyable. I want to take a moment to thank all of the people who make Hilltop the best school around:

- Our Board of Education
- Mr. Geordan, our Superintendent
- Mr. Tullio, our Director of Curriculum
- All of our Central Office Staff
- Our outstanding PTA
- Canfield Bus Drivers
- Mrs. Palumbo, our school secretary
- Mr. Ware, our head custodian
- Hilltop Teachers and Support Staff
- Hilltop Students
- All of our supportive Hilltop parents

Without all of these groups working together, we would not be able to accomplish anything. So again, I offer everyone a giant

Thank You!

Community Service

As we enter the Holiday Season, it is a good time to reflect on how fortunate we are to be a part of the Canfield Schools and community. It is also a great time to teach our children to help those who may be less fortunate. With this in mind, Hilltop Elementary School will be participating in two community service programs this holiday season.

Toys for Tots:

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" Program collects new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Please consider donating to this great program. Collection boxes can be found at the front entrance of the building. **This campaign runs from December 2nd until December 13th.**

Koins for Kids:

Koins for Kids is a charitable campaign to raise money and awareness for Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley. This campaign was created to start a tradition of giving to benefit the children and their families who are serviced by this world class hospital. The "Koins for Kids" campaign has raised more than \$100,000 for the Akron Children's Hospital. Local school children participate in the campaign by participating in fundraising activities and personalizing holiday snowman decorations in exchange for donations to the hospital. The schools raising the most funds in each county will receive an ice cream social plus a DJ for a school dance. **We will be collecting for "Koins for Kids" from Monday, December 2nd through Friday, December 13th.**

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. 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. 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, 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

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

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

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

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	Granola Bars
Canned Chicken	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Fish (Tuna)	Meals in a Box
Dry Cereal	Pasta/Pasta Sauce

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

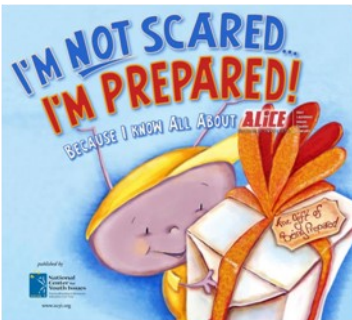
Building Safety and Security

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

It is hard to believe that we are beginning our second quarter of Kindergarten! The children have worked so hard during the first quarter, and we are so proud of our kindergarten students! November will be a busy month in Kindergarten. We will be learning about the first farmers in our country, the Native Americans. We will enjoy a presentation from the Mill Creek Metroparks Farm about the first farmers and Thanksgiving. During our math lessons, we will count by 2s to 20, explore even numbers as doubles, add 1 and subtract 1 to numbers from 1 to 10, compare and order numbers from 1 to 10, and write equations to show sums up to 5. We are working hard in our guided reading groups to become better readers. The children are so excited to practice their reading skills!

1st Grade Update

November is a time of thanks. The first grade classes are so thankful for all that we are learning and the friendships we are making. This month we will be busy learning about our past. We will be talking about the Native Americans and the difficult first year the Pilgrims had when they arrived in the New World. Through friendship, they learned how to work together and survive. Our shared and guided reading programs are in full gear, and we are working on our addition & subtraction strategies with our Bridges program in Math. We look forward to meeting with parents at conferences to discuss your child's progress. The first grade teachers and students would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

2nd Grade Update

The second graders are enjoying observing the changes in the weather during this autumn season. We look forward to meeting with meteorologist Andrew DiPaolo to learn about weather tools, conditions, and forecasting. In math, we will be using non-standard units of measure to investigate real life applications of measurement including measuring the perimeter of a garden. We will be comparing and contrasting different versions of folktales, fairy tales, and fables. Our students have been using their ScootPad accounts in class and this program can be accessed at home for extra practice.

3rd Grade Update

Guided Reading is in full swing as the students are learning to read text at their level with fluency, expression and purpose. They are developing their writing skills as they respond in a variety of ways to text. We are studying the elements of genre in order to make us better readers and writers. In Math, students are deepening their understanding of multiplication using units, arrays, doubling, skip counting, and multiples. We have been discussing the scientific process and are beginning a unit study of rocks and soil. We look forward to learning about our family history through our upcoming Immigration Unit in Social Studies.

4th Grade Update

In fourth grade, the students are hard at work. In science, they will begin learning about fast and slow changes that affect the Earth. In social studies, the students are learning about Ohio and its early beginnings. In reading, the students continue to work in their Guided Reading groups on skills learned in class. In English, the students continue to work on the writing process. In math, students will be exploring fractions.

Music

This month, the Hilltop Second Graders will begin preparing for their, “Holidays Around the World” program. The show will have 3 performances throughout the day on December 17, 2019. Performance times will be at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.. We look forward to seeing everyone at the show! Also, just a reminder to 4th grade students and parents: please make sure you still have your recorder and lesson book. We will resume playing recorders this year following Winter Break. Third Grade students will receive information about ordering recorders and books in a few weeks.

Library

The annual Birthday Book Sale will be held Tuesday, November 26 during conferences. The sale will be extended into the following week. All books must be paid for by Friday, December 6. Last year we raised enough to cover almost half the cost of Hilltop's new books for the library. We hope to get even more "Birthday Books" sponsored this year to support Hilltop's goal of purchasing 21st century materials for our children's education. The classroom that sells the most Birthday Books will win extra free time with Mrs.Hockensmith!

Don't forget we are still accepting donations of Legos. They are a great tool to use in our STEAM curriculum. Thank

Physical Education

The theme in Physical Education in November will be on bowling . We will be using the bowling kits from Camelot Lanes . Students will learn the correct grip, approach and delivery of the ball; push, step, swing & roll. Older students will learn some fun lead-up team bowling activities, become familiar with bowling vocabulary terms and learn how to keep score in bowling. Younger students will work on rolling lighter balls between partners, rolling balls at rubber pin targets and then using the bowling lanes like the big kids!

PBIS

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.

HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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.

Visit us on Twitter!
@CLS_Cardinals

Important Dates

November 1:	End of 1st grading period
November 1-5:	PTA Candy Drive
November 4-8:	STEM Week
November 7:	Picture Make-up Day Fundraiser pickup (3:00-7:00 pm) PTA general meeting (7:00 pm– Hilltop library)
November 8:	PTA general meeting (9:00 am– Hilltop cafeteria) Report Cards sent home
November 11-15:	Glove Drive
November 12-14:	4th grade CogAT/Iowa Testing
November 20:	Limo Lunch
November 25:	Staff Inservice Day (No School)
November 26:	Parent/Conferences (2:00-9:00 pm)
November 27-29:	Thanksgiving Recess
December 2:	School Resumes

Quote of the Month

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”

-John F. Kennedy