

July 2023

Dear Walnut Creek families,

It is our pleasure to welcome back students, parents, staff and our entire WCES community to another great school year ahead! We are looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year and all that it will bring for our school family. Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing to fulfill our District's mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student. We are so excited to welcome our students back to school in August!

Communication with our families is important to us and we have several places you can find back-to-school information as well as gather pertinent information throughout the year. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these resources and bookmark or download them.

Website: Please bookmark our [Walnut Creek website](#). On this site, you will be able to retrieve building specific information here throughout the year. Additionally, you will find district-level news and contact information here.

OLSD App: If you have not already done so, please download the district's free mobile app, Olentangy Schools, from the App Store or Google Play to stay connected with our schools. Once you download the app, select the school(s) you would like to follow and set push notifications. Doing so allows you to receive customizable news, calendars, and notifications including district and building level news on your mobile devices.

Schoology: Schoology is used in grades 3-5 for classroom level communication from teachers about assignments, activities, homework, and other classroom events. Parents can also communicate with teachers directly through this system. Schoology may also be accessed through the district mobile app.

Seesaw: Young learners in grades K-2 can capture and showcase their learning with ease using Seesaw. Parents are able to engage in their child's learning, view their child's work, provide motivation and encouragement, and communicate with teachers.

PowerSchool: PowerSchool is where parents will complete and update important electronic forms at the start of the year, pay fees, receive student grades, and report cards and district-level reports and letters. The district's mass notification system is integrated with PowerSchool and the contact information provided on the back-to-school



forms so please make sure information is accurate and updated throughout the year. New families should opt-in to the district's text messaging service by texting YES to 87569.

Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and the podcast share what makes Olentangy unique and special. Follow Olentangy Schools social media here:

Facebook - www.facebook.com/olentangyschools/

Twitter - [@olentangysd](https://twitter.com/olentangysd)

Instagram - [@olentangylocalschools](https://www.instagram.com/olentangylocalschools)

LinkedIn – [Olentangy Local School District](https://www.linkedin.com/company/olentangy-local-school-district)

YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/OlentangySchools

Podcast - rss.com/podcasts/helloolentangy/

Understanding and using these communication tools is the best way to stay in the know about events and information for not only our school but all schools across the district.

Looking toward the start of another great school year, it is important to remember we want to give time for our students to gain some independence and build confidence in settling into their new school routines. We believe our students will be most successful if they are able to learn to take care of themselves and take pride in their independence. Thank you for partnering with us to build these skills in our students, your children.

Please note some of the following beginning of the year procedures:

Lunch/Recess: We ask that you please wait to come and eat lunch or attend recess with your child until Tuesday, September 5th. This will allow us to help your child learn his/her school routine, establish consistency and begin to feel confident as students of Walnut Creek Elementary.

Lunch: If you choose to come in and join your child for lunch, we will have a visitor table available for you and your child. This will also quality time for you and your child. We're sorry, but we are not able to allow other students to join you and your child at the visitor table. (Space in the lunchroom is limited, so please do not sit with your child's class.) For the safety and health of all our students we ask that you bring lunch and/or snacks for your child **only**. We also ask that money is not provided for snacks for children other than your own. We have many serious dietary health issues, and this procedure **must** be strictly followed.

Recess: If you plan to enjoy recess with your child, for the continued safety of all students, please refrain from pushing on the swings and/or lifting onto equipment any child other than your own.



Drop-off: After the first week of school, if you're walking your child into the building for morning drop-off, we ask parents to say your good-byes in the lobby. This is just one more way of building confidence, independence, and consistency for our students.

Dismissal: If you plan to change your child's typical end of day transportation or destination, we ask that you please notify the office by 2:30 pm. We understand that circumstances will arise and you may need to call at the last minute, but please reserve this for emergencies only.

Birthday Snacks: As a reminder, we ask that in lieu of birthday treats, please consider providing a book to be shared with your child's class. Other ideas are pencils, bookmarks, erasers, or any small non-food items. If a food item must be brought in, please only bring store-bought items that list all ingredients.

Dates to mark in your calendar include:

August 15th – Open House

August 17th – First Day of School

August 24th – Curriculum Night, K-2

August 31st – Curriculum Night, 3-5

Testing Dates:

Second Grade – February 26- 29

Third Grade – October 25 & 26, February 26- 29, and April 4-May 1

Fourth Grade – April 4-May 1

Fifth Grade – April 4-May 1

As you begin to prepare for your own family's back-to-school routine, you may consider incorporating some of the following activities:

Reading: Read at home together at least 20 minutes each day, making it a fun, family tradition.

Sleep: Getting a good night's sleep is an essential key to a productive day for each of us. Establishing a school bedtime routine a week or two before the beginning of school makes adjusting to the school year easier for everyone in your home.

Healthy start: Planning ahead to start each day with a healthy breakfast helps ensure that your child has a great day at school and can focus on the day ahead.

Once again, we are excited for another year at Walnut Creek Elementary. If you have questions or concerns about your child's education, please contact your child's teacher



and then our front office. We look forward to seeing all of you on our first day back to school, Thursday, August 17th. If you have any questions you may contact us at michelle_seitz@olsd.us or kevin_sherman@olsd.us or 740-657-4750.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and Go Bees!

Sincerely,

Michelle Seitz
Principal
Walnut Creek Elementary

Kevin Sherman
Assistant Principal
Walnut Creek Elementary