

July 2024

Dear Oak Creek Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome back students, parents, staff and our entire Oak Creek community to another great school year ahead! We are looking forward to the 2024-2025 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. While it isn't quite time yet, please know we will be ready and waiting with enthusiasm 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: Bookmark [Oak Creek website](#). 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 into the district's text messaging service by texting YES to 79041.



Possip: Monthly “pulse check” text surveys will be sent straight to your phone. The survey is only two questions with an option to provide additional feedback. Parent feedback can be seen by schools in a weekly report, and trends on what’s going well and what families need can be identified.

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.

As is the case with any new school year, we are welcoming some new staff members to the Oak Creek team. Please join us in welcoming:

Amanda Caporale – Mental Health Specialist

Tessa Hanna – School Social Worker

Katie Hodge – Intervention Specialist

Kayla Tomilson – SLC Intervention Specialist

Additionally, some of our favorite familiar faces will be working in new areas. Please join me in welcoming them to their new roles:

Elizabeth Adams – Second Grade Teacher

Kari Browning – English Language Specialist

Allison Greene – Literacy Specialist

Kelsey Steiger – Intervention Specialist

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.



Each morning, we will begin our day with the Pledge of Allegiance and Oak Creek Elementary School (OCES) Creed. The creed follows: I pledge to be a good Oak Creek citizen by showing respect, being responsible, caring for others and making good choices. **C**itizens **R**especting **E**veryone **E**very **D**ay. Our collective community will live by these values.

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

	RECESS	LUNCH
Kindergarten	10:40 – 11:10	11:10 – 11:40
First	11:10 – 11:40	11:40 – 12:10
Second	12:10 – 12:40	12:40 – 1:10
Third	12:40 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:40
Fourth	10:10 – 10:40	10:40 – 11:10
Fifth	11:40 – 12:10	12:10 – 12:40

Drop-off: 8:35 a.m.

Dismissal: 3:20 p.m.

For more detailed information about arrival and dismissal, please see the “Arrival and Dismissal” document on the OCES website. The document may include revisions based on new procedures to ensure safety.

Dates to mark in your calendar include:

- August 13 – Open House
- August 15 – First Day of School
- August 22 – Curriculum Night, K-2
- August 29 – Curriculum Night, 3-5

Parent/Teacher Conference Dates:

- October 14 and October 16 4-7:30p.m.
- February 18 and February 20 4-7:30p.m.

Testing Dates:

- Second Grade – February 24-February 28
- Third Grade – October 22-23, February 24-February 28 and April 3-April 30
- Fourth Grade – April 3-April 30
- Fifth Grade – April 3-April 30



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 Oak Creek Elementary. If at any time you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact your child's teacher first and then our front office. I look forward to seeing all of you on our first day back to school, Thursday, August 15. If you have any questions you may contact us at Julie_lather@olsd.us Jennifer_Sabo@olsd.us or 740-657-4700.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and Go Owls!

Sincerely,

Julie Lather
Principal
Oak Creek Elementary

Jennifer Sabo
Assistant Principal
Oak Creek Elementary