

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
EDITION
2024

NEW
STAFF

Please
welcome
our new
staff!



Ally Mosley Gr. 3



Abby Moddeman



Mara Walker Gr. 3

Gr. 2



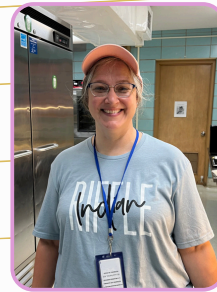
Mikala Burnam PK



Tonya Mayer PK



Jan Robinson
Cafeteria
Manager



Susan Ward
Cafeteria

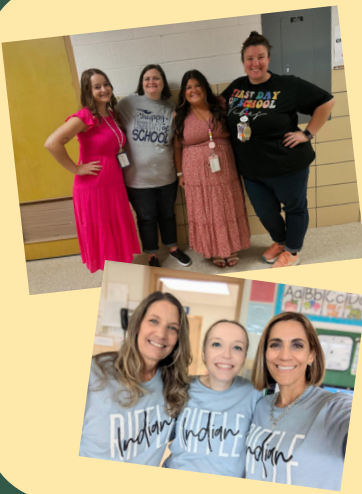


Vicki Alters
Cafeteria



REMINDERS

- Please make sure to call our office if your child will be absent.
- You can add money to your child's lunch account through [Payschoolscentral.com](https://payschoolscentral.com)
- Doors open each day at 7:55 am
- Class begins at 8:15. Students who will be eating breakfast need to arrive by 8:00 am!
- School dismissal begins at 2:25.
- Before and Aftercare is available through the YMCA.



Upcoming Events

September 12 - Early Dismissal - 12:30

September 25 - Boosterthon Fun Run

September 30-October 3 - Bookfair

October 1 - School Pictures

October 3 - Conferences 3:30-7

October 4 - No School

October 18 - PTO Trunk or Treat - 5-7

PBIS News

Positive Intervention Behavior Supports (PBIS) is a framework used by IR and throughout Kettering Schools to help teach behavioral expectations and model positive behaviors. Teachers spend the first few weeks of school teaching expectations and routines, and discussing Safe, Respectful, Responsible behavior. Your child may have share some information with you, or even sung the song we learn.

Students making Safe, Respectful, Responsible choices receive Firebird Bucks. Every Friday morning, we draw names of students who are announced on the morning announcements and receive prizes from the office. At the end of each quarter we celebrate our positive choices as a school.

Lunch Update

We serve breakfast and lunch daily. As a part of our lunch, students are able to purchase chips and ice cream. When you put money on your child's account, they are allowed to purchase these items in addition to the lunch charge.

Chips and ice cream sell for 1.00 each.

Please have a conversation with your child about your expectations for purchasing snacks. Students in grades 1-4 may purchase snacks on Friday only. We will re-evaluate at the end of the first quarter and decide if we can add another day. Gr. 5 has the option daily to purchase snacks. Kindergarten is not able to buy snacks.

Students will still receive their birthday treat on their birthday.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Counselor Corner

Welcome back to school! I can't wait to work with your students this year! My job is to help students with social, emotional, and academic needs. I can't wait to see how we all grow this year! If your child or family has any needs please don't hesitate to reach out!

-Mrs. Elrod

ashley.elrod@ketteringschools.org

Want to connect with your child? Here are some things to ask beyond "how was school?"

Feelings

- Did anything make you happy today?
- Did anything make you sad today?
- Tell me about one thing you did today that made you feel proud.

Friendship

- Who made you laugh today?
- Who did you play with?
- Is there someone you want to be friends with but aren't yet?

Learning

- Can you teach me a song you sang today?
- Tell me about a story you read or listened to today.
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.

School

- What games did you play at recess?
- What are you most looking forward to tomorrow?
- Did you notice anyone being kind today?

Be In the Know with PTO

- Welcome to a new school year at Indian Riffle!!! The PTO is continuing all your favorite events from last year. We are looking forward to a great year.
- The PTO executive board members this year are:
 - Jenna Elliott - President
 - Alicia Ware - Vice President
 - Marie Kriedman - Secretary
 - Tina Evans - Treasurer
 - Amy Paul - Staff Liaison
- Eat at Jet's Pizza (3979 Indian Ripple Road) any Tuesday. Mention the PTO and your child's teacher. Every two months, the top classroom gets a free pizza lunch! This will be an ongoing event every Tuesday through May. The first time frame is Sept. 3 - Oct. 29
- Check out the Indian Riffle [Amazon Wish List](#). We update the list regularly throughout the year! Orders will be shipped directly to the school. Donations can also be sent to the office.
- We'd love your help, making this year great. Can you help at any events? All volunteers have to be approved. Click [Volunteer Background Check](#) to start the BIB process!
- Below is a quick glance of our events for the beginning of the school year

Date	Event
Sept. 2-27.	T-shirt contest Theme: Be the Change
Sept. 10, 5 p.m.	PTO meeting, Indian Riffle library
Sept. 18, 4-8 p.m.	Dine to Donate with Chipotle, 6000 Wilmington Pike - Online order code: 3YBQ2YT **Fundraising will support Ms. Menard's Little Library**
Oct. 3	Parent-teacher conference meal (taco) - Click Here to donate
Oct. 8 - 5 p.m.	PTO meeting, Indian Riffle library - PTO to vote for T-shirt contest winners
Oct. 10-21	Fall fundraiser with Otis Spunkmeyer
Oct. 18, 5-7pm	Trunk or Treat - Click here to sign up

ATTENDANCE

Did You Know???

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

How Can Families Help???

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have a contagious illness, call your school nurse or health care provider for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Nurse Notes



I have received a lot of questions about returning to school when exposed to COVID or after testing positive. At this time, Kettering School District is following the recommendations of the CDC. Attached is a short explanation of returning to school.

As part of the guidance, CDC provides active recommendations on core prevention steps and strategies:

- Staying up to date with immunizations to protect people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. This includes flu, COVID-19, and RSV if eligible.
- Practicing good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Taking steps for cleaner air, such as bringing in more fresh outside air, purifying indoor air, or gathering outdoors.
- When people get sick with a respiratory virus, the updated guidance recommends that they stay home and away from others while showing symptoms. For people with COVID-19 and influenza, treatment is available and can lessen symptoms and lower the risk of severe illness.

The recommendations suggest returning to normal activities when symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

<https://www.cdc.gov/orr/school-preparedness/infection-prevention/index.html>

If you have any questions, please give me a call and we can chat about if it is appropriate to send your student to school. As a reminder, I can give certain over the counter medications to students while at school. Please fill out and return the attached OTC form if you want this available to your student. Cough season is approaching and you won't believe what a cough drop can fix ;)



H.E.A.L.
HEALTH, EDUCATION &
ATTENDANCE FOR LIFE

A HEALTH FLYER FOR PARENTS

When students miss too many days of school, they fall behind and struggle to keep up with their classmates. Whether the days missed are due to illness, truancy or for any other reason, the end result for the student is the same — learning time is lost. Children and adolescents will get sick at times and may need to stay at home, but we want to work with you to help minimize the number of days your student misses school.

Missed Days Add Up Quickly!

- Just a few missed days a month adds up to several school weeks missed in a year.
- Both excused and unexcused absences can make it more difficult for your child to keep up with other students, especially in math and reading.
- Kindergarten and first grade are critical for your child. Missing school during these early years makes it more difficult for children to learn in later years and they often have trouble reading by the end of third grade.

Work with Your Child and Your School

- As the parent, be strong with your child and don't let your child stay home when it is not necessary. This will help your child succeed. Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen can be given at school with a signed OTC form by parents.
- If your child has a chronic disease, make sure that the school staff is aware of the disease so the staff can assist your child if he or she becomes ill. Information about your child's chronic disease should be noted on the school emergency or health information card.
- For students with asthma: if your child has asthma, the school needs an Asthma Action Plan completed by his or her doctor that includes permission to carry an inhaler at school. Make sure that all supplies (inhaler, spacer, etc.) needed to manage your child's asthma are at the school.
- For students with diabetes: if your child has diabetes, the school needs a Diabetes Management Plan completed by his or her doctor. Make sure that all supplies (insulin, blood sugar meter, test strips) needed to manage your child's diabetes are at the school.
- **Provide the school with a reliable phone number. Keep an open line of communication with school staff and teachers. The more the school knows about your child's health, the better prepared everyone will be to work together for your child.**

Helpful Ideas:


- Make appointments with the doctor or dentist in the late afternoon so your child misses as little school as possible.
- If your child must miss school, make sure you get his or her homework assignments and follow up to see if the work is completed and turned in.
- Call the school as soon as you know your child will be absent and tell school staff why your child will be out and for how long. Contact the school nurse if your child will be absent for an extended period.
- Be prepared to get a doctor's note when requested by school personnel.
- If you need medical advice after business hours, most doctors' offices have answering services 24 hours a day to assist you.
- If your child has an emergency, call 911.

For additional information please call the school building and ask for the nurse:

Early Childhood Ed. Center	499-1450	Orchard Park Elementary	499-1910
Beavertown Elementary	499-1740	J. E. Prass Elementary	499-1780
Greenmont Elementary	499-1850	Southdale Elementary	499-1890
Indian Riffle Elementary	499-1720	Kettering Middle School	499-1550
J. F. Kennedy Elementary	499-1830	Van Buren Middle School	499-1800
Oakview Elementary	499-1870	Fairmont High School	499-1600

WHEN SHOULD I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

The suggestions below are for children 5 to 18 years of age.
Recommendations may be different for infants and younger children.

Symptoms and Illnesses	Should My Child Go To School?
Parent is Sick, Stressed, Hospitalized	YES - If you are sick, your child still needs to attend school. Your illness does not excuse your child from attending. We all are sick at times so plan ahead for these days. Get a neighbor, relative or spouse to take your child to school and pick him or her up.
Chronic Diseases (Asthma, Diabetes, Sickle Cell, Epilepsy etc.) Chronic disease is a long-lasting condition that can be controlled but not cured.	YES - Your child should attend school. School personnel are trained to assist your child with his or her chronic disease and associated needs.
Child Doesn't Want to go to School Frequent crying, fear, anger, not wanting to socialize, behavior change, stomach ache, nausea (These can be signs of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, or fear)	YES - You should keep your child in school, but try to determine what is causing the changes. Talk to school personnel and consult a health care provider. Your child may be experiencing bullying or trauma, may be behind in his or her school work or not getting along with others. These and other issues may require your or school personnel's attention.
Cold Symptoms Stuffy nose/runny nose, sneezing, <u>mild cough</u>	YES - If your child is able to participate in school activities send him or her to school.
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) The white of the eye is pink and there is a thick yellow/green discharge.	NO - Your child should be seen by a health care provider to receive treatment and/or medication before returning to school.
Head Lice Intense itching of the head; may feel like something is moving	YES - Your child can be in school if he or she has had an initial treatment of shampooing of hair with a product for lice.
Strains, Sprains and Pains	YES - If there is no known injury and your child is able to function (walk, talk, eat) he or she should be in school. If pain is severe or doesn't stop, consult a health care provider.
Menstrual Issues	YES - Most of the time menstrual (periods) issues should not be a problem. If they are severe and interfering with your daughter attending school, consult with a health care provider.
Fever Fever usually means illness, especially if your child has a fever of 100° or higher as well as other symptoms like behavior change, rash, sore throat, vomiting etc.	NO - If your child has a fever of 100° or higher, keep them at home until his or her fever is below 100° for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. If the fever does not go away after 2-3 days or is 102° or higher, you should consult a health care provider.
Diarrhea Frequent, loose or watery stool may mean illness but can also be caused by food and medication	NO - If, in addition to diarrhea, your child acts ill, has a fever or is vomiting, keep him or her at home. If stool is bloody, if the child has abdominal pain, fever or vomiting, you should consult a health care provider. YES - If cause is known and not due to infection.
Vomiting Child has vomited 2 or more times in a 24 hour period	NO - Keep your child at home until the vomiting has stopped for 24 hours. If vomiting continues, contact a health care provider. YES - If cause is known and not due to infection.
Coughing <u>Severe</u> , uncontrolled, rapid coughing, wheezing, or difficulty breathing (If coughing is mild, please see Cold Symptoms)	NO - Keep your child home and contact a health care provider. Asthma - if symptoms are due to asthma, provide treatment according to your child's Asthma Action Plan and when symptoms are controlled send your child to school.
Rash With Fever	NO - If a rash spreads quickly, is not healing, or has open weeping wounds, you should keep your child at home and have him or her seen by a health care provider.
Strep Throat Sore throat, fever, stomach ache, and red, swollen tonsils	NO - Keep your child at home for the first 24 hours after an antibiotic is begun.
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Chicken Pox - fever, headache, stomach ache or sore throat, then a red itchy skin rash develops on the stomach first and then limbs and face. Measles & Rubella (German Measles) - swollen glands, rash that starts behind ears then the face and the rest of the body, sore joints, mild fever and cough, red eyes Mumps - fever, headache, muscle aches, loss of appetite, swollen tender salivary glands Pertussis (Whooping Cough) - many rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched "whoop", vomiting, very tired	NO - Keep your child at home until a health care provider has determined that your child is not contagious.  www.ketteringschools.org

This information is based upon recommended guidelines from reliable sources to include the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, and Public Health Association.