

August 4, 2024

Welcome to Kinawa!

As we embark on a new school year I would like to first and foremost welcome each of you to Kinawa. I am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve the Okemos community and look forward to having another successful school year.

Communication is important to the success of the students and staff across the district. This includes parent-staff, student-staff and student-student communication at all levels. I am a firm believer that open and consistent communication is a key factor in having a successful school year. Therefore, each week I will send out a weekly update with reminders and upcoming events at Kinawa. Furthermore, if at any point you have any questions please feel free to contact me steven.stierley@okemosk12.net. I am looking forward to another wonderful year at Kinawa and getting to know and serve you and your child.

UPCOMING DATES

August 15th: Kinawa's Kick Start Orientation from 10:00am - 3:00 pm.

August 21st: First day of School. The first day of school is a ½ day with school beginning at 8:45 am and students being dismissed at 11:55 am.

September 24th: District Mascot 5K Run/Walk

August 30 and September 1: No School - Labor Day Holiday

September 6: Picture Day

September 16: Keep Kinawa Moving Event

Wednesday, August 21st students will start the school year. Please know this will be a ½ day of school. School will run from 8:45 am - 11:55 am on Wednesday and we will not be serving lunch. Students are to report to their homeroom teachers. If your child is unable to attend the Kick Start Orientation, please have them come directly to the attendance office as they arrive at Kinawa. We will begin handing out packets to anyone who could not attend Kick Start at 8am.

On **Thursday, August 22nd** students will have their first full day of school.

KICKSTART INFORMATION

Kinawa's Kick Start Open House is Thursday August 15th, from 10am - 3pm!

Kinawa's Kick Start Program

Kinawa is excited to offer an event for all Kinawa students and parents that provides important information to start the school year out successfully. Please understand that a parent or guardian must accompany students to this event.

What:

Kinawa's Kick Start Program

When:

Thursday, August 15, 2024

10am - 3pm

Highlights

- All students will obtain their homeroom teacher placement as well as their locker number and combination
- Learn about club offerings at Kinawa for the 2024 - 2025 school year
- Get information on bus routes and times
- Refill your lunch account
- Find out about volunteer opportunities with Kinawa's Parent Group
- Drop off medication for the school year. [Medication Form needed](#)
- Learn additional information to help transition to Kinawa
- Purchase a Kinawa T-Shirt (optional). Shirts will be available at a table in the gymnasium. Cost is **\$15/T-shirt. Cash or checks** made out to Kinawa will be accepted.



If you are unable to attend August 15, your student's packet will be available the first day of school. Students unable to attend will also have the opportunity to get their school picture taken during picture retakes.

Lastly, please note that all students will receive their personal learning devices on Friday, August 23d during the school day. All returning students must return their old devices on this day to receive their new device.

MEDICATION POLICY

Medication may not be taken at school unless a completed authorization form is on file in the main office. This policy includes both prescribed and non-prescribed medication.. Also, please be aware that the school does not provide any medications, i.e., aspirin or Tylenol. Please plan to drop off any medication to Shruti Gross in the main office during Kick Start. You must have completed paperwork for all medication. [Medication Form needed.](#)

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Kinawa participates in the Weekend Survival Kits program which provides GROCERIES OVER THE WEEKEND, so families can focus more on other necessities.

Weekend Survival Kits provides supplemental kits of food to children at school every other Friday so they can have nutritious food during the weekend.

If you are a family that struggles with food insecurity, you are eligible to receive food kits at NO COST. Please contact counselor **Emily Edger**, emily.edger@okemosk12.net or (517) 706-4707 to register. If you have multiple children, you are eligible to receive multiple kits. All names will remain confidential.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Student Drop Off

If you will be dropping your child off in the morning or picking them up, please make sure you use the large parking lot on the east side of Kinawa. **The loop in front of the school as well as the bus lane to the West of the school cannot be used for student drop off or pick up.**

We have over 750 students at Kinawa, therefore, we ask that you are patient as everyone learns the carline routine. Please know it is imperative everyone is patient and attentive to ensure every child is arriving and departing school safely each day.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

School Supply List:

You can find the suggested school supply list on our Kinawa Website. To find them, please go to the Okemos Public School Website. Click on Select a School in the upper right hand corner. Select Kinawa from the drop

down menu. (I would recommend bookmarking this page) Once on the Kinawa website please choose the for parents drop down across the top. You will find many helpful items here including a school supply list.

Please understand that school supply lists are simply suggested items. Please be assured that your child will have access to all materials needed for learning. Some students like to bring materials of their own. If you have any need for school supply items please contact Mrs. Emily Edger or Ms. Tessa Marks, Kinawa's building counselors, at emily.edger@okemosk12.net or tessa.marks@okemosk12.net.

CARLINE PROCEDURE

Carline Procedures at Kinawa

- Students will exit the building through door #14 Door closest to the tennis courts
- Carline will be "airport loading" along the entire sidewalk area
- Any students choosing to not be picked up curbside will need to wait in the orange barricaded areas for parents to walk them across the parking lot.
- Our goal is to make the process quick for everyone while ensuring our students are safe.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Kinawa is currently looking for any individual who would be interested in being a lunchroom supervisor at Kinawa. These positions would be a great opportunity to interact with our students and staff. The position would be as many days as you would like a week between the hours of 11am - 1:30pm each day. Please contact steven.stierley@okemosk12.net if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Finally, throughout the school year I will also be posting information on the Kinawa Twitter page @KinawaPrincipal for anyone who would be interested in following.

I look forward to a wonderful school year.

Please email me at steven.stierley@okemosk12.net or call me at 517-706-4700 with questions or concerns.

Steve Stierley