

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hello and Welcome to ECSE! My name is Ms. Panse and I will be your child's teacher this year. I hope that you had a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to another great school year. We all have the same goal, for your child to be in a happy, comfortable, safe, learning environment at school. I understand that starting school can be a frightening experience for some children (and parents). I am willing to help in any way possible to calm these nerves.

A little bit about me: I love teaching children here at West Oakview. I have been teaching with Northview Public Schools for over twenty years. I graduated from Aquinas College where I earned my Teaching, Early Childhood degree and played soccer. I also earned my ZS/Early Childhood Special Education endorsement at Grand Valley State University. I love to spend time with my family and friends. I like riding my bike, snowboarding, fishing, taking my dogs for a walk and many other outdoor activities. I am looking forward to learning about your child.

In our classroom, we have lots of books, a play kitchen area with food, dress-up clothes, babies and more. We have a block area with cars, trucks and trains. A puppet theater, sensory table where we will play with sand, rice, noodles, beans, water, snow, etc. We have an art area that we will color, cut, paint, use glue, play-dough, putty and a lot more.

I will provide your child with a folder for school news, art projects, parent communication, etc.; please send this back and forth to school. Be sure to check your child's backpack daily. Below you will see a list of supplies your child will need, please send within the first week of school. Thank You!

Please feel free to email me at apanse@nvps.net or call West Oakview at (616) 361-3470 with any questions. I am very excited for the upcoming year and I know that by working together we can make it successful. Thank you in advance for all of your hard work and help this year! I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely, Amy Panse

To start the year your child will need:

- Any paperwork you have yet to turn into the office.
- A backpack sent every day, large enough to hold a folder, art projects, and labeled winter gear in the cold months!
- 1 box of tissue
- Help your child create an "All About Me" page. Use what you have at home. Take one piece of paper and glue a recent picture of them in the middle. Feel free to glue other pictures on this page (family photo, pets, etc.). You can help your child cut out pictures from a newspaper/magazine of their favorite foods, books, etc. Write your child's name and birthday on the page, label other family members, pets that are included in photos. Be Creative!! Your child's page will be added to our "All About Me" wall, which will be on display in our classroom. This will help staff and students get to know each other. **PLEASE** take the time with your child to create this page, kids find great pride in sharing their pictures with others.
- Gym appropriate shoes. **IMPORTANT:** Please send your child to school in shoes that they can easily put on and take off (so we can work on independence). In the winter, we change from boots to shoes several times a day. Velcro is our friend! Thank You!
- In a large/labeled zip lock bag, please pack an extra outfit (including underwear and socks) that can be stored at school. Accidents happen and we can get messy.
- If your child is not yet potty-trained, you can send a pack of diapers and wipes to leave at school. If your child is in pull-ups, please consider using the ones that have Velcro like material on the sides. These save us so much time, not having to take off shoes/pants if the pull-up is wet.
- **Please Please Please.... Remember to label EVERYTHING you send with your child, especially when it is time for winter weather gear!**

Let me know if you have trouble obtaining any of these items and I will be more than willing to help you!

Please DO NOT send Personal treasures from home unless approved by me. In the past items have been lost/broken. Thank you so much for your support with this. ☺

Important Information

West Oakview Elementary School

3880 Stuyvesant Avenue Northeast

Grand Rapids, MI. 49525

Phone: (616) 361-3470

Fax: (616) 361-3492

STAFF:

Special Education Director Laura Katerberg lkaterberg@nvps.net

Special Education Secretary Laura Huckle lhuckle@nvps.net

Building Principal An Kurosu akurosu@nvps.net

Classroom Teacher Amy Panse apanse@nvps.net

Speech Pathologist (AM) Elli Martin elmartin@nvps.net

Speech Pathologist (PM) Jamie Hulteen jhulteen@nvps.net

Social Worker Courtney Couturier ccouturier@nvps.net

Occupational Therapist April Hemlock ahemlock@nvps.net

Physical Therapist Janice Scharich janicescharich@kentisd.org

Para-Professional (AM & PM) Kathy Lowell klowell@nvps.net

Para-Professional (AM) Kristen Day krday@nvps.net

Para-Professional (PM T&Th) Kim VanHoute kvanhoute@nvps.net

District Nurse Abby Smith absmith@nvps.net

Building Secretary Laura Niedzielski lniedzielski@nvps.net

Building Secretary Brooke Short bshort@nvps.net

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

AM Class 8:10 - 11:30 (M, T, TH)

Delayed start Wednesday AM 9:10 - 11:30

PM Class 12:20 - 3:30

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday = In school learning

Friday = Parent Connection, Home Visits, IEP's, Field Trips