

Harrison Elementary School

September 4, 2026

Dates to Remember

September 7 - Labor Day - Schools Closed
September 8 - Student House Sorting/ Reveal & Assembly
September 8 - Second Board Vote regarding Elementary Transition Plan at Board Meeting @ Taft 7:00 p.m.
September 10 - Curriculum Night/Open House 5:30 - 6:35 p.m.
Grades 1-5 Only
September 15 - Harrison General PTA Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
September 17 - Cuyahoga Fatherhood Initiative Father's Walk
September 21 - 25 - Hike and Bike Week



Looking Ahead:

October 9 - NEOEA Day - No School
October 13 - Picture Day
October 28-30: Fall Conferences

Welcome!!

Principal Message

Whether you are a returning family or joining our school community for the first time, we are excited to welcome you to a new school year filled with discovery, growth, and joy. At Harrison Elementary, we are committed to providing an inclusive and engaging learning environment. We view the families of our students as our partners in their educational journey. Please know that we value your input and want this to be a collaborative experience between school and home. We hope that you have had a great start to the school year and please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have throughout your time at Harrison.



Upcoming Events

Elementary Transition Plan Update

Second Board Meeting Vote!

Meeting Information: Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m. Meeting will be held at Taft Center for Innovation. See below for more details.

Join us for Curriculum Night

Please be reminded that **Harrison's Curriculum Night/Open House for Grades 1-5 is Thursday, September 10th**. This event provides our families an opportunity to formally meet the classroom teacher, learn about their child's daily schedule, and expectations associated with the child's new grade level. It is not necessary to bring your child with you as this event is more of an informational opportunity for parents and guardians and space is limited in the classroom setting. Please follow the times assigned according to the **first letter of your child's last name**.



Student Last Names A-K

Classroom Teacher Presentation:

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Classroom Teacher

Optional Experience in Cafeteria:

6:05 - 6:35 p.m. - Support Team/Specials Instructors/PTA

Student Last Names L-Z

Optional Experience in Cafeteria:

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Support Team/Specials Instructors/PTA

Classroom Teacher Presentation:

6:05 - 6:35 p.m. - Classroom Teacher

*Families with more than one child should attend both classroom sessions provided to ensure that you have the opportunity to meet both classroom teachers. We can also send you an electronic version of information shared in the optional session upon your request. If you are unable to attend this event, you will have an opportunity to meet individually with your child's teacher during parent/teacher conferences.

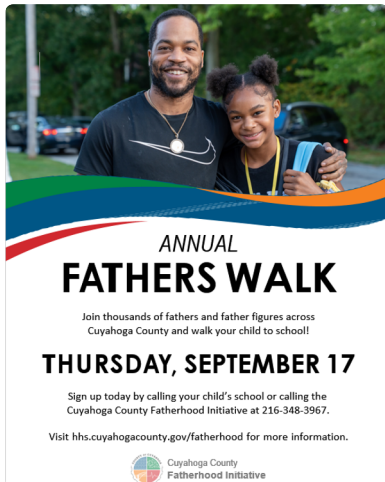
District Hike and Bike

Hike and Bike Week, is a citywide program that encourages families to choose healthy, active, and sustainable ways to get to school. Walking and biking to school not only helps reduce traffic around our building but also supports student health, focus, and independence. Our first Hike & Bike event this school year is **September 21–25th**.



Walking and biking help students start the day alert and ready to learn and fosters independence. Please help us ensure everyone's safety by watching for students walking and biking, keeping sidewalks and crosswalks clear, and if driving, following the school traffic procedures. A few things to remember:

- Use extra caution when turning at intersections and driveways near schools. Students walking and biking may be less visible than vehicles.
- Students biking on sidewalks must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing
- Help keep students safe by slowing down



Fathers' Walk 2024

Fathers or significant others in Cuyahoga County will walk a student to school Thursday, September 17th. We welcome the participation in this event. This could be a father, uncle, grandfather, neighbor, family friend, or any significant family member in the child's life. More specific information will be sent home in the coming days.

Things to Know!!



Second Board Vote during September 8 Meeting at Taft

As part of the Board of Education's legal settlement regarding the District's previously approved plan to repurpose Lincoln Elementary School as an early learning center and redraw elementary

school attendance boundaries, the Board spent its two August meetings hearing about updated enrollment and building utilization data as well as details on benefits of an early learning center. Superintendent Niedzwiecki and other District leaders shared the latest information and updates with the Board, which also heard public comment on the topic.

The Board's decision to settle this matter reflects its commitment to acting in the best interests of the District and being responsible stewards of taxpayer resources. Resolving this litigation allows the District to avoid the significant costs, uncertainty, and time associated with continued legal proceedings. As part of the settlement, the Board of Education does not admit to any wrongdoing.

At a special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Superintendent will present final recommendations, after which the Board will discuss and vote on the proposed recommendations. The meeting will take place at Taft Center for Innovation and begins at 7 p.m. (This represents the change of location). Following the Board's action on Sept. 8, and pending the outcome of that vote, the District will provide an updated timeline and communicate the next steps to our families, staff, and community.

School Attendance

One of the most important factors in student success is simply being in school each day. Students who attend regularly build stronger academic skills, develop positive relationships, and feel more connected to their school community. Let's work together to make attendance a priority from day one. See the attached flyer related to the new state laws.





STATE LAW Attendance Update

When students attend school regularly, they grow academically and socially. Consistency makes a big difference in terms of both relationships and learning at school!

What's Changed?

The State of Ohio has changed its perspective on student absence. Previously, the state placed an emphasis on excused or unexcused absences. Now, the state is focusing on how often students are absent for any reason.

Lakewood educators will partner with parents and caregivers earlier than in the past to proactively address attendance and underlying issues.

Attendance Levels

Risk Category	Attendance Percentage	Approximate Missed Time
 SATISFACTORY	Absent 5% or less	About 6 hours/month
 AT-RISK OF CHRONIC ABSENCE	Absent 5%-9%	7-11 hours/month
 MODERATE CHRONIC ABSENCE	Absent 10%-19%	2-4 days/month
 SEVERE CHRONIC ABSENCE	Absent 20%-40%	5-9 days/month
 EXTREME CHRONIC ABSENCE	Absent 50% or more	10+ days/month

Reminders

Check Infinite Campus regularly to monitor attendance and grades.

Reach out to your student's teacher, the school counselor or the family resource coordinator if your child is struggling with attendance.

Additional Support

If your family is experiencing any barriers to your student attending school regularly, Lakewood educators are here to help.

When students have higher levels of chronic absenteeism - especially missing 30 consecutive hours, 42 hours in a month or 72 hours in the year - other agencies will likely be brought into the conversation about how to intervene.

*Parents/caregivers are the first and most valuable teachers in a child's life.
We look forward to working with you for their success!*

New Staff to Harrison



Sarah Burkhart - Speech Pathologist
Summer Cadle - Title I Teacher
Grace Carleton - Fourth Grade Teacher
Grace Evans - STEM Teacher
Elizabeth Lawrence - EL Tutor

Staff Changes:

Rebecca Blaine, former preschool teacher, now kindergarten teacher.

Sarah Pichelmayer, former kindergarten teacher, now first grade teacher.

Mary Day, former fourth grade teacher, now fifth grade teacher.

LoriAnn Spikes - former 1:1 educational assistant, now non-specific educational assistant

Julia Wells - former Harrison band instructor, now band and choir instructor

House System

We are very excited to welcome new students to the House System this school year. Our PBIS Team met last week and we are planning to get our new students into their houses. If you are

unaware of what the House System is all about, take a few minutes to watch video and if you have questions after that, please reach out to our Student Wellness Specialist, Megan Weiden.



Safety Drills

Please know that we engage in a variety of safety drills when we are physically in the school building. The drills are meant to support our students in responding appropriately should an emergency situation arise. Our drills are conducted from time to time in collaboration with our Lakewood Fire Department and Lakewood Police Department.

Treats and Celebrations

Should you choose to send a treat for a special occasion, families must schedule it with the classroom teacher ahead of time and drop off the treat at the office. The teacher may set aside a few minutes for a treat, or may send the send it home depending on whether time permits. For the health and safety of our students, treats must follow these guidelines:

- The treat must be small, individually wrapped, and store bought. This allows us to avoid concerns related to food allergies because the ingredients are listed on the package.
- We encourage you to consider a favor or small trinket instead of food.
- Please save decorative items (balloons, flowers, etc.) for home.
- We reserve the right to refuse a treat that does not follow these guidelines.

Should you have specific concerns about your child's allergies, please consult the school health aide.

School Lunch

Please review the price list for lunches. Should you have specific questions related applications or online payment, please contact:

- **Julie Bartell**

Assistant Supervisor of Nutrition Services

Email: Julie.Bartell@[lakewoodcityschools.org](mailto:Julie.Bartell@lakewoodcityschools.org)

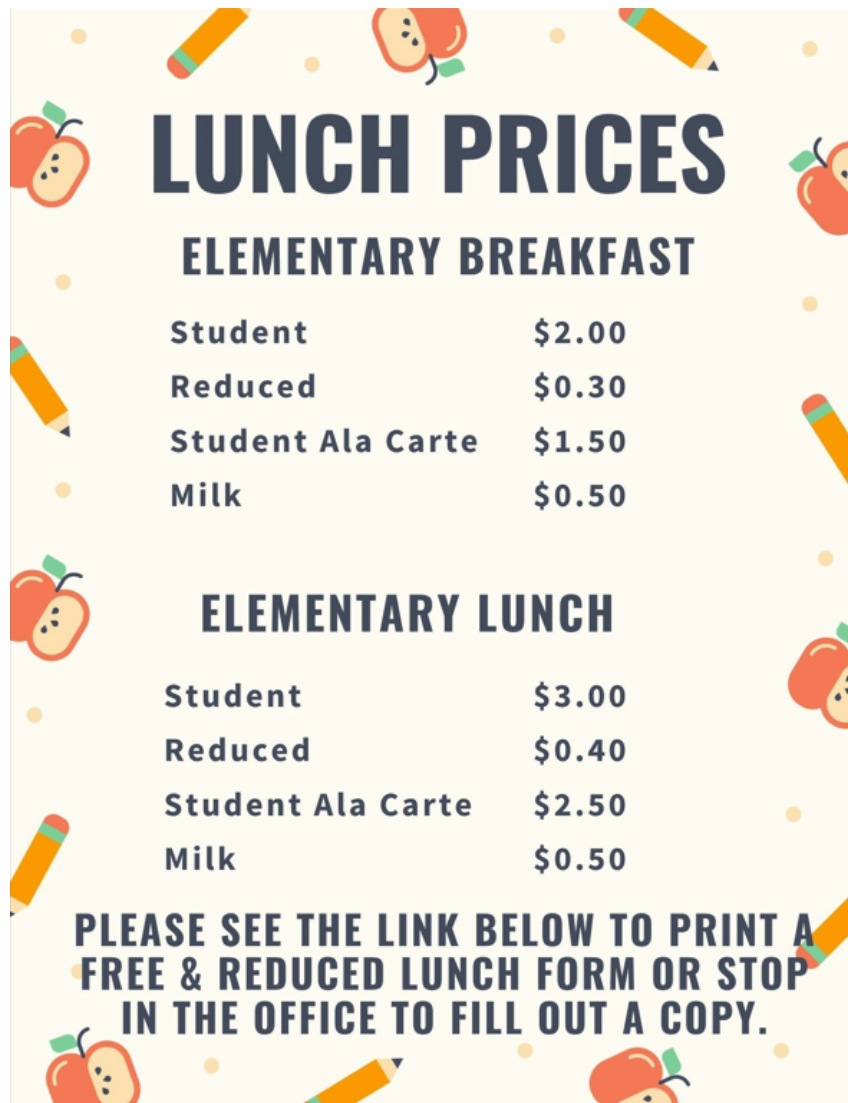
Office Phone: 216-529-4480

- **Jacob Green**

Supervisor of Nutrition Services/Dietitian

Email: Jacob.green@lakewoodcityschools.org

Office Phone: 216-529-4156



LUNCH PRICES	
ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST	
Student	\$2.00
Reduced	\$0.30
Student Ala Carte	\$1.50
Milk	\$0.50
ELEMENTARY LUNCH	
Student	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Student Ala Carte	\$2.50
Milk	\$0.50
PLEASE SEE THE LINK BELOW TO PRINT A FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORM OR STOP IN THE OFFICE TO FILL OUT A COPY.	

Application Link

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1782744591/lakewoodcityschoolsorg/gmexbbgiilhggm29r9tk/26-27NSLPAApplicationwFeeWaiver.pdf>

Student Electronics

Cell phones, Electronic Devices, and Smartwatches: ALL student personal cell phones/electronic devices/smartphones shall be turned off and put away in their backpack while on school property. If there is an instance that a caregiver needs to contact a child or a child needs to contact a

caregiver, the school office phone must be used. Student email, cell phones, smartwatches, or any other electronic device should not be used to communicate with families during the school day.

Harrison Resources

Student and Family Support

Our district is committed to providing various student experiences that support student growth in the areas of self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills. These experiences occur in the classroom and outside the classroom as well. While these experiences involve many of our staff members, they are more specifically supported by our Harrison Student Wellness Specialist, Mrs. Weiden.

Each month there will be a social emotional learning theme. This month the theme is **Awareness of Self & Others**. Students will learn and practice recognizing their own emotions, thoughts, and values - and others', too. They will understand how these influence both their behavior and decision-making. This self-knowledge will help them identify their strengths and areas for growth.

We are also very fortunate to have a Family Resource Coordinator in all of our school buildings in Lakewood. The Harrison FRC is Miss Adrienne Parker. She serves as a bridge between home and school, specifically providing support for families. She also works closely with student attendance and can support families in this area as well.

Both roles provide valuable support and we are truly grateful for their contributions as they offer more opportunities for student growth and success. Should you find the need for more intensive support, our school community is connected to Bellefaire JCB. This service can be requested by a parent/guardian. Please reach out to our school office should you have any additional questions.

Bellefaire JCB

We are no longer utilizing OhioGuidestone for our behavioral health services at Harrison. We are happy to welcome Bellefaire JCB this school year. Jessica Majoy, LSW, Team Alliance Counselor will be at Harrison three days per week and is available to provide services for Harrison students through a referral process. If this is a service that you are interested in for your child or would like to know more about the services, please reach out to our Harrison Family Resource Coordinator, Adrienne Parker and she will facilitate the contact for you.

Important Reminders

Things to Keep in Mind

* Wear appropriate shoes. Students' shoes must be attached to the foot either with a back or strap on the shoe. This supports students having a safe recess experience and supports their ability to walk up and down the stairs safely.

* Morning Drop off should be done as efficiently as possible.
Please pull your vehicle all the way up and have your child exit the vehicle as quickly as possible.

*Class begins promptly at 8:55 a.m. Please ensure that students arrive in a timely manner so that they are seated and ready for instruction.

* When walking across the parking lot, we ask that utilize the crosswalk and walk with your child as they cross. During peak times, our parking lot can be challenging when safety precautions are not being followed.

* We do not provide supervision of students prior to 8:45 a.m. and after 3:15 p.m. Please remind your child that they are expected to go directly home after school. **Students are not permitted on the playground before or after school without adult supervision on the playground.** The playground is closed when it is being used by Horizon as they have a permit for use.



Harrison PTA

Donuts with Grown-Ups

A big thank you to our PTA for organizing such a well-attended Back-to-School event on Friday, August 28th. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another and to warmly welcome our new Harrison families into our school community.



Harrison PTA

Please consider joining the Harrison PTA and attending the upcoming meeting to learn more about how this organization supports the school and how it can enhance your child's school experience. The first PTA meeting this school year is Tuesday, September 15th at 6:15 p.m. in the Harrison Cafeteria.


Prime Focus Inc.
WHERE YOUR VISION IS OUR PRIMARY FOCUS



VISION FOR SUCCESS

Clear Vision. Stronger Futures.

FREE VISION DAY

Help your child start the school year ready to learn and see their best.

Join Prime Focus Inc. for a free Vision Day designed to connect children and families to essential vision care.

Healthy Eyes. Brighter Futures.


SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM


MOTORSURE AMERICA
 25643 Euclid Avenue
 Euclid, OH 44132

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED.
Limited walk-ins accepted if time permits.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

-  **FREE VISION SCREENINGS**
-  **EYE EXAMS IF NEEDED**
-  **FREE PRESCRIPTION GLASSES IF NEEDED**
-  **REFERRALS FOR FOLLOW-UP CARE**
-  **RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
 Priority will be given to children **ages 5–17**.
 Children must be verbal and able to follow simple instructions.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 1 Check-In
- 2 Vision Screening
- 3 Eye Exam if Further Evaluation is Recommended
- 4 Frame Selection if Glasses Are Prescribed
- 5 Next Steps and Resources

REGISTER TODAY!
 SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SECURE YOUR APPOINTMENT.



 primefocusinc.com/event-details/vision-day-sept-12-1

PLEASE NOTE:
 Not every child will need glasses. Some children may receive a referral for follow-up care instead. 

 Prime Focus Inc. is committed to helping children and families access the vision care they need to succeed in school and beyond.
 primefocusinc.com



School Information

Principal - Sabrina Jackson

Secretary - Stacey Sponsler

Health Aide - Emma Bangert

Location: [2080 Quail Street, Lakewood, OH, USA](#)

Phone: [216-529-4230](tel:216-529-4230)



Sabrina Jackson

Sabrina is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters