

Oakland News

January 2012



Oakland Elementary School
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Happy New Year!

Parents,

Now that the holidays are “behind” us, many people are renewing commitments for making healthier life choices... like the dreaded fitness routine and avoiding McDonald’s French fries! This is the month Oakland School’s annual Family Health Fair occurs to support these efforts. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, January 26 from 6-7:30. I found a wonderful list of tips for children’s fitness titled “Nine Sneaky Ways to Get Your Kids Moving.” The title grabbed my attention and I hope it grabs yours as well. The ideas are included below:

1. Buy video games that make them sweat!
2. Rotate active chores.
3. Make family nights about moving around...plan activities with fitness in mind.
4. Have a step competition. Using pedometers for all family members, this will be a “healthy” competition.
5. Walk! Walk! Walk! Around the neighborhood, to school, to the grocery store....
6. Give in! There nothing like a dog to get the family walking! This could be a condition to bringing the new puppy home.
7. Pool resources. Budget for a family pass to the community pool. The kids have a blast exercising in this way.
8. Be handy. Yard games like badminton and Frisbee may not keep a child’s interest, but strapping on a tool belt to build or repair something can be engaging and quite a workout.
9. Be creative. There are many simple, inexpensive, and fun ways to get kids moving: backyard obstacle courses, bike rides on the trail, neighborhood bike rodeo or dancing to the music of both generations.

This article is from the Weight Watchers website and can be viewed at http://www.weightwatchers.com/util/art/index_art.aspx?tabnum=1&art_id=33811&sc=3405.

See you at the Health Fair!

-Mary Kay Scharf

Welcome to Oakland School!

Parents are welcome to visit Oakland School. All visitors, including parents, are required by state law to first sign in at the office before heading to other areas of the building - even if you are only planning a quick visit.

It is always best to arrange visits with your child's teacher in advance. Scheduled visits allow you and the teacher to identify the types of activities that would be the most informative and interesting for you to observe, while at the same time, cause the least amount of disruption to the learning environment for all students in the classroom.

If you do not schedule a visit with your child's teacher, please realize you may not see the type of activity intended. For example, the students might be taking a test or working in another classroom. If you choose to visit on the spur of the moment, please be respectful of the following guidelines:

- ♦ Be a silent observer unless invited by the teacher to participate.
- ♦ Please do not attempt to engage the teacher with questions about your child or the lesson with students present.
- ♦ Parent-Teacher conferences should be scheduled in order to include adequate time for dialogue.
- ♦ Please do not engage your child or other students in conversation or silent communication. Students should be focused on the teacher or the activity.

Parents are welcome to join their child during lunch at any time. Parents may bring a lunch from home or a restaurant (**no soda or peanut products please**). If you plan on eating a school lunch, call the office by 9:30 am so we can add you to our lunch count.

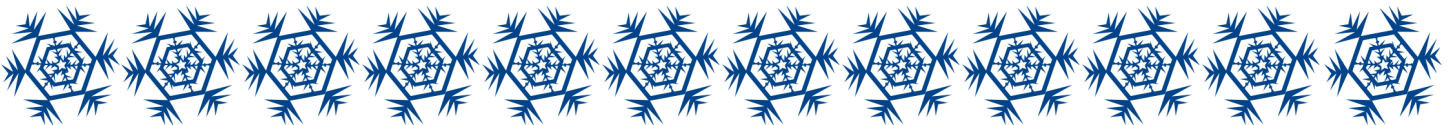



HOOT at Home **“How Oakland Operates Together”**



As part of the HOOT process at Oakland School, each classroom developed a matrix of expected behaviors. These expectations are based on our “Big 3” behaviors: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. These expectations are overtly taught, modeled, and practiced with our students throughout the school year.

Over our winter break, take some time for your family to develop your own matrix of behaviors. Work together with your child to fill in the matrix below (or create a different one that better fits your needs). This activity will set the precedent for expected behaviors at home. It will help your child understand routines, make them feel empowered by contributing to behavioral routines and (hopefully) minimize arguments about expected behaviors. Don't forget.....EXPECTED BEHAVIOR MUST BE TAUGHT AND MODELED. We cannot expect behavior from children if it has not been taught to them.



	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
Morning Routine	*Ex) Listen to directions	*Ex) Get dressed quickly	*Ex) stay seated while eating breakfast
Out And About	*Ex) Use good manners	*Ex) Clean up after yourself	*Ex) Stay with parent
Evening Routine	*Ex) Use kind words	*Ex) Brush your teeth	*Ex) Clean up your toys

Have your students tried these foods?

Julie McCoy MS, RD, LDN, School Nutrition Director

Greetings parents! Here are two great items to encourage your children to eat!

Bean & Cheese Chalupa: This product is served every 3rd Friday! It provides a healthy serving of legumes, or “beans.” These are packed high in fiber and nutrients. The shell is whole grain, packing another punch of fiber. It is also vegetarian! Your student may not be used to beans, so please encourage him/her to try them the next time they are served:

- ◆ January 6 and 27

Italian Beef: This product has savory beef on a whole wheat bun, served with sweet potato fries. The orange sweet potato fries look different than regular French Fries, but are full of vitamins and minerals. Definitely worth a try!

- ◆ January 11
- ◆ February 1



Have We Got Your Number???

If you or any of your emergency contacts have moved or obtained a new phone number, please be sure to let us know so we may update our records. You can call us at (309) 662-4302 or send an email to Mrs. Fritcher at fritcherm@district87.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

February	1	8:15 Student Council Meeting
	2	6:30 PTO Meeting
	6-10	Parent Teacher Conference Week
	10	No School—P/T Conferences
	14	2:30 Valentine’s Room Parties
	15	8:15 Student Council Meeting
	18	SIT Conference at Heartland
March	20	No School—Presidents’ Day
	23	Multicultural Fair
	5-16	ISAT Testing
		<i>(Please refrain from making appointments for your child during this 2 week period.)</i>
	23	12:05 Dismissal
April	26-30	Spring Break
	6	Non Attendance Day
	30	No School –School Improvement Day

Oakland School Multicultural Fair Thursday, February 23 6:00-7:30

Interested in sharing your culture with the Oakland School community? Oakland School is having its fifth annual Family Multicultural Fair on Thursday, February 23rd from 6:00 to 7:30 in the evening. The last five have been great successes, and we look forward to yet another great event! To ensure a successful fair, we are seeking family participation to demonstrate what life is like in other cultures. We would like students to experience various aspects of each culture: clothing, food, crafts, dancing, games, music, language, etc. If you can assist in any way, please look for a form in January that your child will receive from his or her teacher. On this form you will be able to sign up to help and say how you would like to contribute! Thanks!



The Impact of Tardiness on School Success

Tardiness/Leaving School Early Arriving at school late and leaving school early interrupt the instruction of students in the classroom. As a result, leaving school early will be treated the same as tardiness, and the same conditions will be used to determine whether an absence is considered excused or unexcused. Repeated occurrences of tardiness or leaving school early will result in consequences, including after or before school detentions.

District 87 Student Handbook, pg. 32

Parents,

The information in the text box above is from the District 87 Student Parent Handbook. It is often a surprise to parents when students with repeat tardiness are assigned a detention for this disruption to instruction. At Oakland School, instead of sending home a detention after the 3rd unexcused tardy, we send home a notice that indicates a detention will be assigned to the student should there be another unexcused tardy in the current semester. This gives the parent and child increased awareness of the frequency of the problem and provides an opportunity to avoid the consequence.

Detentions for Kindergarten through 5th grade students who are tardy without valid excuse are typically assigned for before school, from 8:15 to 8:45, on the following day. However, sometimes families need an extra day to coordinate the transportation for the student or may request to move the assignment to after school. While serving the detention is not optional, we will always work with parents who need a couple of days to arrange this.

Students who are on time to school are more successful.

By Stacy Zeiger, eHow Contributor

Schools stress the need for students to get to school and class on time and with good reason. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on truancy, which is connected with tardiness, show that school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school success and student behavior.

Problems with Tardiness

The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours, because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class.

Academics and Achievement

Students who are frequently tardy have lower GPAs, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.

Behavior Problems

In the National Center for Education Statistics 2007 Indicators of School Crime and Safety, teachers surveyed reported that students who are frequently tardy have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected with school, leading to behavior problems and dropouts.

Job Performance

Students who are frequently tardy to school are also more apt to be fired from a job for showing up late.

Effect on Others

When students are tardy, they negatively impact their teachers and other students. Teachers are often required to allow tardy students to make up work, which often requires them to restructure their lessons or reteach missed material. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior problems and missed instruction.


Read more: [The Impact of Tardiness on School Success | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/facts_6370914_impact-tardiness-school-success.html#ixzz1gehkbfsX)
http://www.ehow.com/facts_6370914_impact-tardiness-school-success.html#ixzz1gehkbfsX



January 2012

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email Martha at fritcherm@district87.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012	2	3 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	4 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	5 School Resumes	6	7
8	9	10 3:00-9:00 PTO Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser	11 8:15 Student Council Meeting	12 Report Cards Sent Home Today <i>(If no emergency days are used)</i>	13	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL <i>Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday</i>	17 NO SCHOOL <i>School Improvement Day</i>	18 1st Graders to Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 8:15 Student Council Meeting Group Picture Day	26 6:00-7:30 pm Health Fair	27	28
29	30	31 	No Name-Calling Week			
						<p>***** Students go outside for recess everyday when the wind chill is 20 degrees or above. Rain, heavy snow, or an uncleared blacktop are the only exceptions to this rule. Please help your child be prepared for outdoor recess by making sure he or she wears a hat, coat, and mittens on cold days. *****</p>