

Oakland News

September 2011



Oakland Elementary School
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Welcome Back to School

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! It has been a joy to meet our new students and to visit with returning students. The enthusiasm for the first day was gratifying as children, parents, and Oakland staff were beaming and ready to get started. With 94 kindergarteners and over 50 other new students, nearly 30% of our students are attending Oakland for the first time. To assist these students and refresh the memory of the others, teachers and staff focused heavily on establishing and practicing all school routines. Our HOOT program, How Oakland Operates Together, provides us with a common set of expectations for all locations of the school. Classes traveled throughout the school learning and relearning this basic foundation for school success. Ask your children what the expectations are in various school areas such as in line, at the drinking fountain, in the bathroom, in the bus line, or at an assembly. Over time, I am sure you will be impressed with each child's understanding of these routines.

We have five new staff members at Oakland School this year. Mrs. Theresa Meadors is teaching our kindergarten children, having previously taught at Holy Trinity and Bent School. Mrs. Cindy Brown comes to us from Epiphany School. She is supporting children in the classroom and also providing direct reading instruction to small groups. Mrs. April Powell is our new Social Worker intern; she will work with Mrs. Ryder throughout the school year providing direct service to children, supporting the intervention process, and implementing programs to help our students and families. Mrs. Pat Harweger and Miss Brianna DiLorenzo joined the supervisors in the lunchroom.

As always, I encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher for problems within the classroom or grade level. For busing, lunch, or recess concerns, please call me directly. You can find the email address of all teachers on the Oakland School website: www.district87.org/oakland.

Thank you for sending us your eager to learn children. I am confident this will be a wonderful year of growth and learning for each of them.

~Mary Kay Scharf



HOOT at Home "How Oakland Operates Together"



Welcome to a new school year. Like last year, Oakland School students are actively learning how to be RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE. We are busy filling buckets and learning the expectation about How Oakland Operates Together (HOOT). Please remember Oakland School Behavioral Expectations are provided in the handbook distributed at orientations. It also includes the process for handling problem behaviors within the classroom and at the administrative level.

At Oakland School, we want to celebrate good behavior. This year, we are excited about our upcoming plans to recognize consistently positive behavior and acknowledge student success. In order to make this happen, we could use your help! Do you have any connections to community resources that might help with our celebrations? Could you donate treats, jumping houses, movie tickets, gift cards, etc. that may make these celebrations more exciting for the students? If so, please contact Jessica Ryder or Dr. Scharf with your ideas.

Thank you for supporting your students at home. We look forward to a great year of positive behavior and full buckets!



Nurse's Notes

- ◆ If you have not already done so, please bring your student's medication (if it is needed during school hours) to the Nurse's office, along with the properly completed Medication Authorization Form. Any medications (even Tylenol, Tums, cough drops, and throat lozenges) a child takes during the day at school must be ordered by a physician. Forms are available at school or online. Parents may come to school at any time to administer medication without a doctor's order.
- ◆ Free vision and hearing screenings will be performed on all students beginning in September.
- ◆ Students who have a fever of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, a contagious rash or illness, or vomiting should not attend school. They should be free of the illness or condition for 24 hours before returning to school.
- ◆ Accidents sometimes happen at school! If your child has been in need of a change of clothes this year while at school, it may be helpful if you send an extra set of clothing to have on hand.
- ◆ If a student is unable to participate in P.E. for more than 3 days due to illness or injury, a note from your healthcare provider is required. If a student cannot participate in P.E., he or she may not participate at recess.



As always, Nurse Colleen Spaniol is available for your questions. You may reach her by calling the school.

Side Circle Pick-Up Procedures

The Oakland School Staff has developed an efficient system for dismissal of students to parents in the side-circle.



**Please read through these procedures.
We believe strongly that students are safer
and will be dismissed more quickly if parents
are respectful of the guidelines for this area.**

- ◆ Students must sit on the designated line until the duty teacher calls the name when the driver nears the pick-up area. On cold or wet days, the students will stand. Students are expected to watch for their rides and listen for their names to be called by a teacher for loading.
- ◆ Cars must clearly display a name card for the student(s) they are picking up. This card is best seen by the teachers when displayed from the rearview mirror with a clip hanger or attached to the back of the passenger sun visor. Please leave your name card up until after your child has loaded. Name cards are available in the office.
- ◆ After your child is secure in your vehicle, please cautiously pull away from the pick-up zone to make room for the next family.
- ◆ Teachers will call for the student(s) and send them to one of the colored cones.
- ◆ Students are not allowed to approach the loading area until they are called.
- ◆ Patrols are, first and foremost, fifth grade students who are assisting teachers in before and after school duty. Their main job is to walk children safely to a designated cone. Patrols may help open car doors, but it is not required.
- ◆ Students must wait until the car has stopped in the loading area before approaching the door.
- ◆ Students must load on the curbside of the car.
- ◆ Parents should *only leave their vehicle* if they need to secure a child in a safety seat.
- ◆ Parking and leaving your vehicle is not permitted in the side-circle. If you must come into the building, please use street parking.
- ◆ The handicapped parking space is for disabled people who need to enter the building or for loading a child who is disabled. It is not a waiting area for dismissal time.
- ◆ When exiting the parking lot, no left turns are permitted. **Please** be respectful of this procedure; cars attempting to turn left impede the efficiency of this process.

Reminders for the New School Year

- ◆ All student absences should be reported to the office by 10:00 am on the day of the student's absence. The phone number for the school is (309) 662-4302. State law requires schools and parents to attempt to contact each other when a child is absent. Please assist us by calling first. You can also report a student absence by sending an email to Mrs. Fritcher at fritcherm@district87.org.
- ◆ Repeated occurrences of tardiness or leaving school early will result in consequences, including before or after school detentions.
- ◆ We have several students with severe peanut allergies at our school. For their safety, we ask no peanut products be brought in lunches or snacks.
- ◆ Students are not permitted in the building before 8:45 am unless they plan to eat breakfast at school. Breakfast is served beginning at 8:30 am.
- ◆ Invitations to parties cannot be distributed at school.
- ◆ Due to health concerns and scheduling, treats for any occasion must be arranged with the teacher in advance.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

October	6	5:45 Room Parent Social
	6	6:30 PTO Meeting
	7	Fall Festival
	10	NO SCHOOL-Columbus Day
	13	4:00-9:00 p.m. Barnes & Noble Book Fair
	14	Scrip Order Deadline
	21	End of 1st Grading Period
	21	NO SCHOOL-Teacher Institute Day
	24-28	Parent Teacher Conference Week
	28	NO SCHOOL-Parent Teacher Conferences
November	17	Book Fair & Family Event



Books & Bytes



Our Library Opens Soon!

During your child's Library Media Center time each week, students will be given the opportunity to select library books. Each library book is automatically checked out for two weeks, however most children prefer to bring their books back *each week* in order to choose new titles. A child can always renew a book for an additional two weeks if s/he has not yet finished it. Here is a summary of our library book guidelines by grade level:

- Kindergarten: Due to the holiday, check out begins Monday, September 12; 1 book per week
- 1st Grade: Check out begins Friday, September 2; 1 book per week
- 2nd & 3rd Grades: Check out begins the week of September 5; up to 2 books per week
- 4th & 5th Grades: Check out begins the week of September 5; up to 2 books per week; a "Playaway" can also be checked out with a signed permission slip as a third item. Permission slips will be sent home the week of September 5 with additional information.

Shhhhhh! It's a Secret!



During the month of September, students in grades 2 - 5 will be reviewing their personal usernames (5-digit ID numbers) and passwords. The username and password combination is used for students to access Scholastic's Reading Counts program, online science resources, and, in grade 5, an online portal for *Social Studies Alive!* Please remind your child to keep this username/password combination **private**, as all of their computer activity is monitored and scored accordingly.

Personal reading scores, known as **Lexiles**, relate to privacy issues, as well. Please reinforce the analogy I use with students when discussing their current reading levels: Just like T-shirt sizes are tagged *inside* of our shirts and out of view, Lexile scores should be kept inside—or private—as well. Thank you for your cooperation!

New Faces & New Spaces



Have you noticed we have new staff members at Oakland this year? Please welcome:

- ~Mrs. Theresa Meadors (Kindergarten Teacher)
- ~Mrs. Pat Harweger (Lunchroom Supervisor)
- ~Ms. Brianna DiLorenzo (Lunchroom Supervisor)

In addition to the new staff members, we have a few other changes:

- ~Mrs. Stacy Hornbacker has moved to Kindergarten.
- ~Ms. Tani Schrift & Mrs. Lexi Kalitzky have moved to 1st Grade.

Lunch and Breakfast at Oakland School

Lunch/breakfast menus were sent home with students during the first week of school. Our menu can also be found on our website. The lunch price this year is \$2.05. The breakfast price this year is \$1.50. Lunches rotate on a 3 week schedule, and the breakfast menu is the same every week. The same menu is used throughout the year. For the safety of our students who have severe allergies, we ask that you not pack peanut products in lunches from home.

We have a computerized system for our lunch and breakfast programs. It is a prepayment system, *not* a charge account. Payment can be sent to school in an envelope marked with your child's name and "lunch money" and given to the office or teacher or mailed directly to school. Checks should be made payable to **Bloomington Public Schools Cafeteria**. Please put your child's first and last name on the memo line. When your account is out of funds, a note will be sent home with your student. Another option for managing your student's lunch account is www.mylunchmoney.com. Please visit the website to sign up or for more information. If needed, free/reduced lunch applications are available in the school office.



Parents are welcome to have lunch with their children periodically. If you would like to eat the school lunch, please call before 9:30 am that day so you can be added to the lunch count. Parents pay for lunch as they go through the line. The adult lunch price this year is \$3.00. You may also bring in lunch from home or a restaurant if you wish. We ask that you please bring milk or juice instead of soda. Please remember to sign in at the office and get a visitor tag before heading to the cafeteria.

Second grade	11:00-11:20	3rd grade	12:20-12:40
1st grade	11:20-11:40	4th grade	12:40-1:00
Kindergarten	11:40-12:10	5th grade	1:00-1:20

**If you haven't tried the Oakland PTO
Scrip program, make this your year!
The Scrip program is easy to use and
helps raise money for the PTO.
Look for more information to come
home with your student soon!**



Bloomington Public Schools, School District 87

School Calendar

2011 - 2012

August '11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	*	*	*	(18)	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September '11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	V	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October '11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	V	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	◆□	22
23	24	25	26	27	PTC	29
30	31					

November '11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	V	N	26
27	28	29	30			

December '11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	□	N	N	24
25	N	N	N	N	N	31

January '12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	N	N	N	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	V	S	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February '12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	PTC	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	V	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March '12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	T	T	T	T	T	10
11	T	T	T	T	T	17
18	19	20	21	22	½	24
25	N	N	N	N	N	31

April '12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	N	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	T	T	26	27	28
29	S					

May '12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	□	E	E	26
27	V	E	E	E		

June '12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Symbol Code	
Institute Days*	*
First Half Day of School	(
Holidays*	V
End of Grading Period	□
Parent Teacher Conference*	PTC
School Improvement Days*	S
Testing	T
1/2 Day of Attendance	½
Last Day of School (early dismissal))
Emergency Days	E
Non Attendance Day *	N
* = NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE	

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Approved 2-9-2011

REMINDER

All registration fees are now due.

September 2011

REMINDER

The lunch price this year is \$2.05. The breakfast price is \$1.50

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>We are always looking for volunteers at Oakland School. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact your child's teacher or Dr. Scharf. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.</p>				<p>1 5:30 Back to School Cookout  7:00 PTO Meeting</p>	<p>2 Innisbrook Fundraiser Begins Today</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 SAT10 Testing Week for Student in Grades 1-5 Please be sure your child is well rested and has a great breakfast!</p>	<p>5 NO SCHOOL Labor Day</p>	<p>6 5th grade parents—stop by BHS anytime between 3:30 & 7:00 for the Band & Orchestra Informational Meeting</p>	<p>7 </p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Scrip Order Deadline</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Innisbrook Fundraiser Order Forms and Money Due <u>Today</u> (Checks payable to Oakland PTO)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26 </p>	<p>27 Mrs. Hiles' & Mr. Oberts' Classes to Challenger Learning Center</p>	<p>28 Mrs. Stanek's Class to Challenger Learning Center</p>	<p>29 Fall Picture Day All students will be photographed.</p>	<p>30 </p>	