



Dundee Elementary Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 1, 2013

Dundee Elementary School
8072 School Street
P.O. Box 145
Dundee, Ohio 44624

Upcoming Events

Fire Drill	Sept. 3rd
No School For Students-Staff Professional Development	Sept. 11th
Midterms	Sept. 20th
6th Grade Camp	Sept. 23rd—25th
No School- Swiss Festival	Sept. 27th
School-wide Good Behavior Reward	Sept. 30th

Welcome Back

Hello, my name is Beth Hamersley. I am the new principal of Miller Avenue and Dundee Elementary Schools. I replaced Larry Compton, who retired last year.

I have been working in education for 23 years. My first job was teaching in the third grade. I also taught second grade and computer classes for grades K-5. Teaching computers to kindergarten students was one of the best jobs I have ever had!

When I went into administration, I first served as Dean of Students under Kelly Luneborg who was the principal of Newcomerstown West Elementary at that time. I later became an Assistant Principal and

then Principal. My last position before coming here was Federal Programs and EMIS Coordinator at Newcomerstown Schools.

My husband, David and I live in Newcomerstown. We have been married for 27 years and have 3 wonderful adult daughters. One of the greatest joys in our lives is spending time with our 2 beautiful granddaughters, 5 year old Audrey and 6 month old Allie!



It is an honor for me to serve as the principal for

Miller Avenue and Dundee Elementary Schools. Both of these buildings, as well as the district as a whole, have an excellent record of high academic achievement. Many people in the district have told me that a big part of the success of Garaway School District is the outstanding support that they receive from parents and community members. Already, in the short time I have been here, I can see this is true!

I enjoyed meeting many of you at Open House and look forward to getting further acquainted with parents and community members in the near future.



Attendance and Dismissal

Arrival

Students who are walking, riding a bike, or being dropped off at school need to be here between 8:30 am and 8:45 am. These students will be counted tardy after 8:45 am. Students who ride a bus are not

counted tardy because they have no control over their arrival time.

Dismissal

The walkers and pick-ups are then dismissed at 3:25 pm. The regular bus students are picked up by

their buses between 3:30 and 3:45 pm. If your child is going to go home through a different means than they normally do, please send a note to your child's teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation to help us get all our students home safely.

Absence Notes

When your child cannot attend school, please call the office at 330-852-2022. If you do not call, then an office worker will call you to verify that your child is supposed to be absent from school. This is a requirement of the "Missing Children's Act" for all schools.

In addition to calling, please send a written note explaining the absence to your child's teacher. Garaway Board of Education

Policy 5200 requires a written note for each absence.

When you know ahead of time that your child is going to be absent from school due to some pre-planned event, please send a note to school explaining the absence prior to your child missing school. Then you will not need to call the school on the day of the absence.



School Security



At Dundee Elementary, the safety of students is our number one priority. During the school day all exterior doors are kept locked. The front doors are locked at 8:45 am. After that time, anyone who needs to enter must buzz the office and request permission to enter the building. We realize that this may seem inconvenient at times, but it is important for

the safety of our students.

No one other than a parent or guardian will be allowed to pick up a student without written permission. Thank you for your help in keeping our students safe. If you have any questions or concerns regarding school safety, please contact the principal.

Volunteers Help Prepare Dundee and Miller Avenue Schools

Volunteers from the New Pointe Community Church came to Dundee and Miller Avenue Elementary Schools in force on August 4th as part of their Community Outreach Service Projects. These volunteers helped with many projects around the schools. Some helped



sort, count and deliver new workbooks to the classrooms. Others helped by weeding flower beds and the playgrounds. The outdoor school signs were also given a thorough cleaning. We truly appreciate the help these families gave to get our schools ready for the first day.

New Staff and Staff in New Places



My name is Carol Renner and I am so excited to have the opportunity to teach at Dundee Elementary School this year. This is my first year of teaching. As a Dundee native, it is wonderful to be back at such a great school within a great community. After graduating from Garaway, I attended The Ohio State University where I graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology. From there I obtained my teaching license through Ashland University. I worked as a substitute teacher and aide within the Garaway district for the past three years. My husband Tyler and I live in Sugarcreek, and while we do not have any children, we do have two very spoiled dogs. I look forward to teaching at Dundee this year and am excited to be a part of your child's education.

My name is Hayley Paumier. This is my first year working in Garaway School District and I am very excited for the school year to begin! I am most looking forward to getting to know my new students and working to establish a meaningful and unique relationship with each. I grew up in Louisville, Ohio, a small city located in the Akron-Canton area. I graduated from Ohio University with my bachelor's degree in Middle Childhood Education and I then went on to earn my master's degree in Reading Education from Ohio University as well. While completing my master's, I also taught part-time in a fifth grade classroom in Federal Hocking School District. After graduation, I worked as a substitute teacher and a daycare teacher. In my spare time I love to read, travel, watch movies, bike ride, and visit with family and friends.



With nearly 35 years of experience, Marla Snyder is a primary education teacher who has spent the majority of her career in the Garaway Local School District. Prior to coming to Garaway, she taught in Columbus City Schools and East Holmes Local Schools. Some of you may remember her as the Dundee Kindergarten teacher before Mrs. Mahaffey. She also taught third grade, Title 1 and second grade at Miller Avenue. Marla received her bachelor's degree in education from The Ohio State University and

her master's degree in education from Marygrove College. Marla and her husband Rod have a son and a daughter, a son-in-law, and are the proud grandparents of two grandsons.

My name is Megan Taggart and I am a former Garaway student, which makes my new position that much more special. I have been married for 6 years and we have one daughter. I enjoy being with my family, camping, and reading. I am thrilled to be working in kindergarten and look forward to what this year has in store.



Right to Know through Federal Programs

Parents and guardians have the right to know teaching qualifications of their child's teacher (s). The federal law, No Child Left Behind, requires that all local school districts receiving Federal Title 1 funds notify parents that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) and instructional assistants. Parents and guardians may request the information by contacting their child's principal with a written request.



STAR Testing

You may have heard your child talking about taking the "STAR Tests" last week. This is not a test over the constellations as one might guess. It is actually an online reading and math ability testing program. It is made by Renaissance Learning, the same company that makes Accelerated Reader. The STAR Reading and Math tests are approved by the Ohio Department of Education for use in the "Third Grade Guarantee," Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, and gifted identification. If you would like to learn more about these assessments, you can visit their website:

<http://www.renlearn.com>



Special Education Child Find-

The Garaway Local School District is locating and evaluating children from birth through 21 years of age in effort to serve people with disabilities, including developmental delays, health impairments, autism and traumatic brain injury. Individuals may contact the Garaway Local schools about children who may have a disability and may be eligible for special education services. Please contact Kelly Luneborg, Special Education Coordinator, at 330 852-2421.

"3rd Grade Guarantee" Affects More than just 3rd Grade Students

Ohio law requires all public schools to give a reading diagnostic assessment to students in grades kindergarten through third by September 30th. At Garaway, we have decided to use the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy, a state developed test, for our kindergarten students' assessment. In grades 1-3, we are using the Renaissance Learning-STAR Reading Enterprise for their assessment.

Any K-3 student who scores below the expected achievement level, will be given a "Reading Improvement Plan." Should your child need this additional help, the teacher will discuss it with you during our first Parent-Teacher Conference on October 3rd.

The reason this law is called the "Third Grade Guarantee" is because students must meet a minimum score on the Ohio Reading Achievement Assessment to move on to the fourth grade. For the 2013-14 school year the minimum score for advancement is 392. This score must be attained either in the Fall or Spring administration of the state test. The reasoning behind this law, comes from research showing that students who are not reading on grade level by the end of third grade will likely have trouble learning in all classroom subjects in higher grades.

If you have any questions about how the Third Grade Reading Guarantee affects your child, please feel free to set up an appointment to discuss it with your child's teacher. More information can also be found on the Ohio

Department of Education's website at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee>.

We all know how important a child's reading ability is to his or her future. The staff of Dundee Elementary look forward to working with you to help every child reach his/her full potential.

More great resources for helping your child learn to read are available on the United States Department of Education website at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>