

Miller Avenue Elementary

# Husky News



*Monthly Issue:* The newsletter, loaded with information pertaining to our school, can be found on the Garaway home page at [www.garaway.org](http://www.garaway.org) - hover over the schools tab and click on Miller Avenue from the drop-down choices. Call the office at (330)852-2441 for any questions you may have and we will be happy to help you.



Friday, September 18, 2020

*E + R = O, (E)vent + (R)esponse = (O)utcome*



## **Welcome Back!!**

We hope the opening weeks of school have been good and you and your kids have been enjoying a smooth start to a great year at Miller Avenue! Please look for our monthly newsletter, going forward, to be issued on the first Friday of each month. If there is no school on that Friday it will be sent out the following week.

Newsletters, lunch menus and other pertinent information will be sent out to the Parent/Guardian group email list and will be viewable on the Miller Avenue tab of the Garaway website. Paper copies are available upon request.

*GVA Parents/Guardians are also included in this group email list to help keep you apprised of any extra-curricular activities that you may be interested in.*

## ***A Message from Mr. Fisher, Principal***

We are so happy to see all the children back in school! We've had a terrific start to the new school year, with drop offs and pick-ups running very smoothly, our new lunch and recess schedule working perfectly, and teaching/learning taking place. If you have any questions concerning your children, please don't hesitate to call the school office @ 330-852-2441. We're looking forward to a great year!



### **We Relentlessly CARE:**

Our theme this year is **RELENTLESS**. As best we can, we want to make up for lost time in not only educating our students, but in building and maintaining relationships with them. Even though we're wearing masks to start the year, we won't let that stop us from providing the best education possible for our community. To build upon our circumstances, we've adopted the acronym **C.A.R.E.** to teach our children our expectations for what a Miller Avenue student looks, sounds, and acts like. **Courteous, Accountable, Respectful**, and putting forth their best **Effort**.

### **Empathy:**

One way that we teach positive character traits and anti-bullying is by teaching empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. A great way to do this is through a story, where the class discusses the setting of the story, the characters, and what is happening with the plot. In some grade levels, students write letters AS one of the characters, to learn their point of view. Great lessons will be taught this way! I've talked to our older students as the leaders of our school to display empathy by wearing our masks. Some students or staff members may have underlying health conditions. Masks can add a layer of protection for those around us. So while we may not like wearing them, we don't wear them for us. We wear them for others. Having said that, we also give our students mask breaks (sometimes while sitting right at their desk) to ease the load a little bit.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

It's wonderful to be back - and to see everyone again. Thank you for being responsible and respectful. We've had a great first 4 weeks. Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend!

## IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Thank you so much for actively helping your children and taking an interest in their education. Please know that our students' and teachers' instructional time is very valuable and we would like to minimize any disruptions to that time. So it is with that in mind that we ask you to **always check in at the office** when coming to the school. Please allow the Secretary, Tina Medley, to deliver any forgotten items or messages to your child. We also would appreciate it when walking children in that you say your goodbyes to them in the lobby and allow them to proceed to the classroom on their own. This will also help with keeping interruptions to a minimum and will encourage your child's independence.



### **SCHOOL BUILDING DOES NOT OPEN UNTIL 8:30 a.m.**

Please do not drop off students before 8:30 a.m. Employees do not start their day until 8:15 a.m., so therefore, for proper supervision of students, they should not be arriving until 8:30 a.m. Every child must arrive wearing a mask and will have their temperature taken before entering the school. Parents who drop off their child (children), please wait to make sure they are approved to enter the building before pulling away. Please understand that employees are doing their jobs to benefit the welfare of all students at Miller Avenue. We appreciate your consideration of this matter. Thank you!!



### **EARLY MORNING BUS ISSUES**

When experiencing an early morning bus issue (from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.), please call the **Central Office at (330) 852-2421** rather than calling the Miller Avenue office to better ensure that there will be someone available to assist you. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**CALLS & NOTES PERTAINING TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF YOUR CHILD(REN):** Due to the busy nature of dismissal time and the office at Miller Avenue, it is best to send in a written note with your child(ren) in the morning explaining any change in their ordinary routine. All changes in routine **MUST** go through the Secretary, Tina Medley. All notes are sent down to the office every morning and a coordinating bus or pick-up slip will be issued and passed back to the teacher in the afternoon. **Please, do not give notes to the bus drivers!** If your child has a complicated schedule (such as going on different busses to babysitters/grandparents) please send in the details of the schedule to Tina. It is very difficult for the bus drivers to keep all of the students schedules coordinated, so to make it easier on them a bus slip must be issued. All calls for any changes pertaining to the plans for transporting your child must be made by **2:00 p.m. PLEASE!!** Whether the change involves a bus, walking home or needing to be sent to the pick-up line, you may phone the Miller Avenue office at (330)852-2441. We do want to stress that a **change in the routine must be made to the secretary by a parent/guardian by a note or phone call.** We will **NOT** make a change to your child(ren)'s schedule from them telling us to.



**CAR PICK-UP LINE** We are always striving to make the process of picking up your children the safest and most efficient way that we can. This year because of the large volume of pick-up students, we have moved up the start time. We will be sending children out to be picked up **starting at 3:05**. Please be sure to follow the directions of the aides that are on duty and to have the pick-up tag visible, to make it as easy as possible



for the aide on duty to see the name. Students are being kept in their homerooms and will be called to the lobby as soon as their names are called.

Please do not exit your vehicle and enter the building while in the pick-up line as it holds up the whole process. If you need to enter the building (example: your child has forgotten something) please pull to a parking spot and walk your child back into the building. The pick-up line can become very dangerous, so please do not allow children to dart across to re-enter the building. Please make sure they are either walked back across by a responsible adult. Older children may re-enter on their own, but please remind them to go to the crosswalk and wait for an aide to safely direct them back across. We are most appreciative of your cooperation and patience in our efforts to have this process run as smoothly as possible. Car Pick-Up tags are available at any time. Please send in a note or phone the office to request pick-up tags. **Kindergarten parents: I apologize for my failure to issue car tags to you - I will be working on getting those made up and will give to Mrs. Atkinson to send home very soon!**

#### **SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES PERTAINING TO SAFETY AT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP**

Parents who bring students to school, please make sure to line-up in the drop-off zone (behind bus zone) only if dropping your child off. After your child has had their temperature taken and have been approved to enter the building, please continue on straight through and exit out of the bottom parking lot - **DO NOT TURN LEFT** at the drop-off zone, as it causes confusion and backup of staff and others wanting to turn in to the school. If you are planning on walking your child into the school, you must move to the parking spaces on the left. Please **DO NOT block** the bus zone at any time. Please make sure that your child **DOES NOT** dart out into the lane of traffic, as it is a very busy time of day with cars coming and going. Also **DO NOT** allow them to walk between the busses. As stated above, please say your goodbyes to them in the lobby and allow them to proceed to the classroom on their own. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, stop in the office and talk to Tina Medley, Secretary and she will either deliver the message or ask the teacher to come to the office to speak to you. **PLEASE DO NOT GO TO THE CLASSROOM**, as teachers are very busy during this time. Thank you for helping us out in these circumstances so as to keep our students as safe as possible.

**Please know that making sure your child arrives at school and gets home safely is our utmost priority. Thank you so much for helping us out with all of these matters.**

## **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES AND ABSENCE NOTIFICATION POLICY**

The Board of Education requires that the students enrolled in the schools of this District attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the State. The educational program offered by this District is predicted upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose.

### ***Attendance Procedures***

Consistent attendance is a desirable habit that is essential for promotion and success in a student's schoolwork. While enrolled in school, the student's number one job is attending classes regularly and fulfilling all class requirements. When school is in session and a pupil is not present, he or she is counted absent regardless of the reason for the absence. *Excessive absence has an effect on a student's grades.*

#### **A. Attendance Procedures**

*If my child is absent a parent can execute one of two options.....*

1. **Email Option** - Email: Email the school secretary the student's name, grade, and reason for absence. This **WILL** count as authorization for absence and as a hard copy of written note. If the office is emailed, **NO** written note is necessary upon return to school.
  2. **Phone Option** - Call the school office to authorize student absence. The student will then be responsible for bringing a written note to the attendance office upon returning to school in order to be considered an excused absence. After 3 days without a note, the student will be marked as unexcused and unauthorized. The phone call and note needs to include the following information: student's name, grade, and reason for absence.  
**\*An automated call will occur at 10:15am for all unauthorized students.**
1. Parents must use either the Email or Phone options or send a note if a student is absent for all or part of a day. If the parent sends a note, the note will be brought to the attendance office in the morning or upon their return to school. .
  2. If the student was kept at home due to an emergency, the parent/guardian must explain the nature of the emergency. This can be done with a phone call or email to the principal or school office.
  3. If a student has required medical attention, please include documentation from the doctor. **If it is necessary for a student to miss 30 or more consecutive hours (5 days) due to illness or injury, a medical excuse from a doctor will be required.** If a student has a chronic medical condition, which requires the student to be absent periodically, a physician should document this situation.
  4. Students who do not provide a written excuse when returning from an absence will be issued an unexcused absence slip. Students who have been given an unexcused absence slip because they did not provide school officials with a written excuse upon their return to school must provide a written excuse on the next day that they attend school, or they will be considered unexcused and/or truant.

#### **B. Types of Absences**

##### **1. Authorized vs Unauthorized**

- a. **Authorized Absence** - A parent/legal guardian has made contact with the school to verify the whereabouts of an absent student
- b. **Unauthorized Absence** - No contact has been made to the school by a parent/legal guardian to verify the whereabouts of an absent student.

##### **2. Excused vs Unexcused**

- a. **Excused** - One of the reasons listed in Sections C must apply to the absence.
  - i. **Excused Absences** - A student who has an excused absence will have the equivalent number of days to make up any missing work.
    1. **Examples:**
      - a. A student misses three days of school, he/she will have 3 days to make up the missing work for full credit.
      - b. If a student misses 3 days and a quiz was given in a class on the first day the student was absent, said student has 3 days to make up that quiz. That quiz does not have to be made up the first day the student is back in school.
- b. **Unexcused** - A student is absent for a reason other than those listed in Sections C and D; in addition, it was not approved by the principal.
  - i. A student who has an unexcused absence will **NOT** be given credit for any work missed while he/she was out.

### ***C. Reasons for Excused Absences from School***

1. Personal illness (The principal may require a doctor's confirmation if s/he deems it advisable.)
2. Illness in the Family
3. Quarantine of the Home
4. Death of Relative
5. Absence during the School Day for Professional Appointments (Student shall bring a signed statement from the doctor, dentist, lawyer, counselor, etc. to the effect that s/he reported promptly for the appointment)
6. Emergency at Home (Validity determined by the principal)
7. Observation of Religious Holidays
8. Field Trips – students may not attend field trips if there is an attendance issue or fees need to be paid
9. Athletic Tournaments - Student athletes will be permitted to attend state tournaments in the sports which they participate. Other students may be permitted to attend state tournaments when Garaway High School athletes are participating in state tournaments.
10. Hunting - Students will be permitted one day for hunting with parent permission and the presentation of a valid hunting license.
11. 4H/Fair - Judging days at the county fair will count as field trip days. Other fair days are also permitted as excused absences for 4H members.
12. Family Vacations - Vacation travel may be quite educational in its own right; however, there is no legal provision in the Ohio Revised Code permitting schools to grant students excused absences from their classes in order to travel on vacation. Schools are permitted, however, to stipulate the conditions under which they will permit student absences for reasons other than those explicitly stated in the Revised Code. Since many families cannot always plan vacations to coincide with school holidays, Garaway Local Schools will **excuse** students for family vacations as long as the family agrees to the conditions below and provides the requested information prior to departure from school. NOTE: This may lead to student being excessively absent as defined by ORC 3321.191.
  1. We ask parents to consider seriously the effect extended absences may have upon a student's school progress.
  2. Teachers are not obligated to prepare work for students to take with them.
  3. Parents and students assume full responsibility for any tests or assignments missed during the period of absence. Assignments, if given, are due on the day of return to school in order to assure the teachers that the student is abreast of the classroom activities.
  4. Teachers are not obligated to permit make-up work if proper arrangements have not been made prior to departure.
  5. No student will be **excused** to be absent from school to go on vacation unless that student is accompanied by his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), even though the parents of that student have given permission for that student to go on vacation. Students are authorized to be absent from school for the purpose of vacation travel to accommodate parents whose vacations cannot be scheduled when school is not in session. Therefore, students who are on vacation and are not accompanied by their parent or parents will be marked authorized but unexcused during the time of their absence. ANY VARIATION FROM THE ABOVE STATED GUIDELINES MUST BE APPEALED TO THE BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR/ATTENDANCE OFFICER PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE.
13. College/Career Visits (**Prior approval by principal/assistant principal**) – Students may use two days of excused absences for these visitations. Verification from the College/Career is required upon return. Additional visitation days will need to be approved by the principal.
14. Observance of Religious Holiday/Religious Trip

#### **D. Excessive Absenteeism**

*Through the following steps and procedures, we hope to pinpoint and address attendance issues, if one, before they become a chronic absence. The plan is to correlate both academics and attendance in the success of our students now and preparing them for the future. It is vitally important to include the parent(s)/guardian(s) along with the student to maximize a positive and consistent attendance routine. Our goal is to reduce the number of students who become a habitual and chronic absence which in return will improve Academic Success!*

*The parents or guardian of students with excessive absences will be informed through:*

**1. 30 Hours:**

- i. The student will be called into the office to complete ODE's *Attendance Works* Questionnaire to pinpoint possible reasons why their attendance has become an issue.
- ii. The student will complete ODE's *My Attendance Success Plan* through Attendance Works.
- iii. Attendance Officer and/or Administrator will explain the 42 hours absence connection to taking Final Exams at the end of the school year.

**2. 42 Hours:**

- i. A 42 Hour Letter will be sent home to the parents/guardians.
- ii. Signifies ALL Final Exams will be taken at the end of the school year.

**3. 65 Hours:**

- i. Requires parent/guardian involvement; the Parent/Guardian **MUST** meet with the Attendance Intervention Team.
- ii. Parents/Guardians receive ODE's *Attendance Works Handout for Parents/Guardians*.
- iii. ODE's *My Help Bank Handout* is completed with attendance intervention team, parent/guardian, and student.
- iv. Student must meet with Absence Intervention Team (Attendance Officer, Administrator, Teacher, Guidance Counselor, and Student.)
- v. A 65 Hour Letter will be sent home to parents/guardians.
- vi. Students must have a doctor's note for all absences to be excused.

**4. 90 Hours:**

- i. All Field Trip and Non-Absence Days will be revoked; on such days student will complete missing work from their previous missed days of school.

*The attendance officer or principal may file charges in juvenile court when:*

1. A student misses 30 consecutive hours of school
2. A student misses 42 hours of school in a month
3. A student misses 72 hours of school in a year

#### **H. Students Leaving School during School Day**

No student is to leave school prior to the regular hours of dismissal except with the knowledge and approval of the administration and of the student's parents. No student will be released to any government agency without proper warrant or written parental permission except in the event of an emergency as determined by the administration.

#### **I. MakeUp Opportunities**

Students will be given the opportunity for making up work missed due to approved absences. The length of time for completion of makeup work shall be commensurate with the length of the absence. Students will not be given the opportunity to makeup work due to truancy or some out of school suspensions.

#### **If your child will not be in school.....**

- Please email me at [tmedley@garaway.org](mailto:tmedley@garaway.org) or
- Call the school phone (330) 852-2441 and leave a message

On the email or school phone please state the date, your name, your child's name, grade level and the reason for the absence.

**T H A N K  
Y O U**

**To all the parents and staff who have donated water & water bottles, sanitizing wipes and masks to us for use here at Miller Avenue. We appreciate the donations!!**

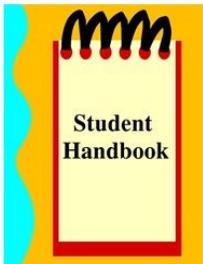
**Although at this time, for the safety of the children, our drinking fountains are closed, we understand how important it is for our children to stay hydrated and we want to reassure you that water bottles are being refilled by staff members and donated water bottles are available for them to get if they forget to bring their own. Please remind your child that all they need to do is ask and a staff member will make sure that they get what they need!**





**4th, 5th & 6th GRADE PARENTS:** All 4th, 5th & 6th Grade students received a Garaway Chromebook Policy Handbook that was included in the First Day Packet. That Handbook detailed the usage/policies of the Chromebooks supplied to your student. Please submit your \$50 payment for the Chromebook at your earliest convenience. If your child has an outstanding fee for last year's Chromebook please submit that payment as soon as possible.

**\*\*When sending in money to the school for such things as lunches and chromebook fees, please make the check payable to Garaway Local Schools and include in the memo line what the money is for - PLEASE DO NOT make it out to Miller Ave. as the bank will not accept it. Thank you!!**



**DRESS CODE REMINDERS**

As stated in the student handbook, students are permitted to wear shorts until the end of October. Just a reminder that "Shorts must be worn at a length that is decent and in good taste with the length being at least mid-thigh." Also, "Proper footwear is required at all times. Flip-flops are not permitted. Sandals must have heel straps." Please see your student handbook for any other dress code concerns.

**MEDICATION POLICY REMINDER:** Just a reminder that students per the Medication Policy are not allowed to have any kind of medication (including over the counter types, cough drops and such) on them at anytime. Please try to administer any type of medication your child may need before and/or after school. If your child will need to have any medication administered during school hours the parent/guardian may come to the school to administer it. If the medication must be administered by the school Secretary or Nurse, the proper paperwork must be filled out by the physician and sent into the school. **PLEASE do not send** in cough drops and such with your child.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE** Student Accident Insurance enrollment forms and information is available on the Miller Avenue link of the Garaway homepage under Parent Resources.



We are once again collecting **Box Tops** to earn money for our school. Please see below for the attached flyer for more information on the way our school will receive funds. Please continue to clip and send any Box Tops on packages. Look for more information on the ways Miller Avenue will use Box Tops this year. Thank you for helping our school through the Box Tops for Education program!

# UPCOMING

## Mark Your Calendars EVENTS



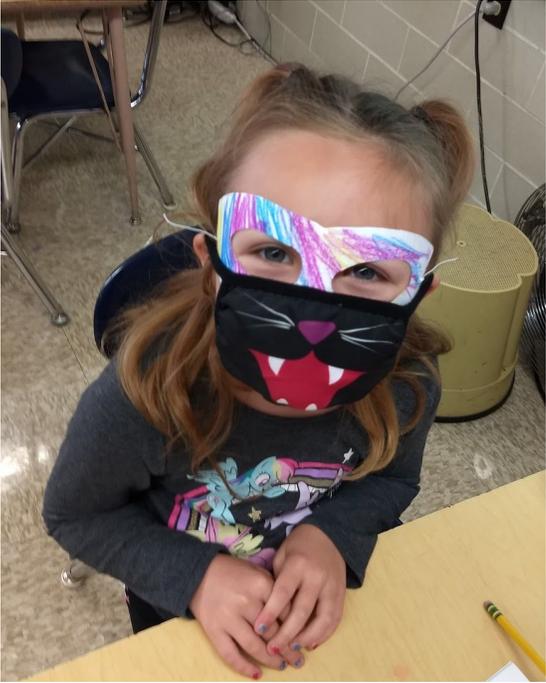
- ❖ **PIRATE PACKS WERE SENT HOME STARTING LAST FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th** - *applications are still available for anyone wishing to participate.* Included in your child's 1st Day Packet of papers was a Pirate Pack application. Pirate Packs are assembled by a wonderful group of volunteers from both the Sugarcreek and Ragersville United Church of Christ. We are so appreciative of the donation of their time and money to this program – it is a big help to many of our families. Please send in all applications to the school office as soon as possible for your child to be included in this program if you so wish. Additional applications are always available in the office.
- ❖ **NO SCHOOL - Friday, October 2nd** - *although the Swiss Festival has been cancelled this is a Board approved scheduled day off and will remain so.*
- ❖ **Wednesday, October 7th** - Lifetouch Fall Picture Day  
*\*\*GVA Students who wish to have their picture taken are welcome to come, but please come during the scheduled time-frame of 12:35 to 1:00 p.m.*
- ❖ **Thursday, October 8th** - 2 Hour Early Dismissal/Parent-Teacher Conferences
- ❖ **Friday, October 16th** - NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development Day; End of 1st 9-Week Grading Period
- ❖ **Friday, October 23rd** - Report Cards issued

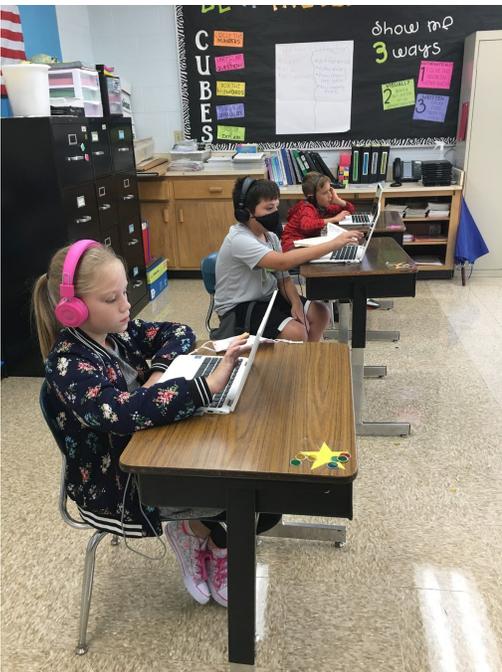
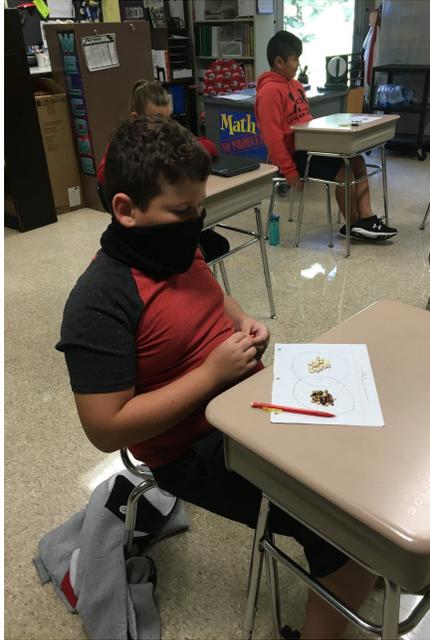
### Super Hero Day

Mrs. Taggart and her tribe of Wonder Women were prepared to protect our school at all odds!!



Please enjoy a few pictures from our first few weeks of school - we had a nest of baby bunnies under the playground equipment on the primary playground. Mrs. Atkinson took on the task of keeping them safe until they were big enough to move safely on.





**A NOTE FROM THE CAFETERIA:** Please **DO NOT** send in any food in packed lunches that will need to be refrigerated and/or microwaved. Also milk may be purchased with a packed lunch - it is 50 cents for each milk and the child must report to the teacher on duty that they would like to purchase the milk so that his/her account will be charged accordingly. Students who are on a Free/Reduced status will also be charged if purchasing a milk with their packed lunch as that status is only for school lunch purchases.



**LUNCH MENU** - Lunch menus were sent home with each child in the 1st Day Packets and are also available online. Additional paper copies are still available, contact the office if you would like one.



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**READ THE NEWSLETTER, YOUR CHILD CAN WIN A PRIZE!!**

***\*\*One student per class will be picked to be a Prize Winner by each homeroom teacher to come to the office to pick a prize. Parents please send in a note stating that you have read the newsletter - since we are doing a digital version of the Husky Newsletter and you will either be viewing online or receiving it by email, just send in your note using any scrap of paper you have at home! \*\*\****



Dear Families,

The Box Tops for Education program is changing the way we can earn cash for our school!

Over the summer, participating brands have begun to change their packaging from the traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.



SEE THIS...  
**CLIP IT**



SEE THIS...  
**SCAN**  
YOUR RECEIPT

Going forward, instead of clipping from packages and checking expiration dates, all Box Tops will be earned digitally by scanning your receipt. The Box Tops for Education team has worked hard to build a NEW-and-improved, user-friendly Box Tops mobile app, available now.

The new app features state-of-the-art technology that allows you to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

**BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE NEW APP  
OR UPDATE YOUR EXISTING APP:**



If you still have traditional Box Tops clips at home, make sure to send them to school. We will still earn cash for all clipped Box Tops until they expire. Better yet, you can “double dip” during the packaging transition by clipping traditional Box Tops AND scanning your store receipt containing participating products.

Thanks for helping our school get what it needs!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CHANGES AT**  
**BTFE.COM**