



West Ottawa Public Schools

Preparing Students to Be College, Career and Life Ready!

Great Lakes Newsletter

November 6th, 2020

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From the desk of Mr. Stefanich

We have just completed the first marking period of the 2020 school year and although there are a lot of things different about this year, I have been so proud of the work that both the teachers and the students have been doing. Every day I see students working hard, asking questions, and being kind to one another. It has been very refreshing to be back at Great Lakes with your child. They truly make our building a special place.

Over the course of the past week, we have rolled out new Chromebooks and carts to all of our classrooms. I am happy to announce that we now have a 1:1 ratio of students to Chromebooks in our building. Please ask your child what type of learning they have been doing on the Chromebook. I have been blown away by the learning that my own children have been doing on the Chromebooks the past few weeks.

We are continuing to be extremely cautious with the safety of our students and staff. As we start getting closer to Winter, please remind your child of the importance of washing their hands. We teach children to wash their hands for twenty seconds and to use warm water while washing their hands.



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Important Dates

November 9th
Report Card Go Home

November 9th
3rd-5th Grade Honor Roll

November 25th
No School

October 30th
School Resumes



PTO Board Members

We do not have volunteers for our PTO this year. We are in the process of dissolving our PTO with hopes to start it back up next year.

President— Leslie Franklin
Treasurer— unfilled
Co-Treasurer— unfilled
Secretary— unfilled

READING AT HOME

One thing that can be challenging is to set up a routine to help your child read at home. With having four elementary aged kids, I know just how tricky this can be. One thing that works for our family is creating a routine and sticking to that routine as often as possible. All kids thrive with routine and a predictable schedule and having this schedule can make reading at home more successful and fun for your child.

In our house, our routine is to read after dinner and before my kids start getting ready for bed. My oldest kids are in fourth grade and although they are great readers, I have been setting aside twenty minutes each evening to read to them. This has become a fun family activity and it has also been a great way to settle my kids down after a long day. We turn off all electronics, get comfortable on the couch and then I read from a chapter book. We have recently completed three chapter books as a family and one thing that parents sometimes don't realize is that even as your child gets older, having them listen to you read helps them to become better readers. It also allows your child to listen to stories that might be at a higher reading level than they are capable of reading at.

STAY Connected

Stay connected with us at Great Lakes by following our school on Twitter. You can follow @GreatLakesWO for the most up to date information on what is happening at school.

Also, many of our teachers are on Twitter. Ask your child's teacher what their Twitter Handle is so you can stay current on what is going on in their classroom.

Finally, be sure to checkout our new PTO website. <http://greatlakespto.weebly.com/>

Reminder of Onset COVID Symptoms

As we are further into the school year, I wanted to remind parents of the flow chart from the Ottawa County Health Department that we are following when students exhibit onset COVID symptoms. If students have any **ONE** these (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or loss of taste or smell) **OR any TWO** of these (fever over 100.4, chills, muscle aches, sore throat, diarrhea/vomiting/stomach pain, congestion/runny nose, headache or fatigue) students must be excluded from school.

When students are sent home with onset COVID symptoms parents have three options to help their child return to school. The first option is to call your doctor and get an alternative diagnosis. The second option is to have your student take a COVID test and receive a negative result. The third option is to do neither and have your child stay home from school for ten days. One thing that is frustrating for all is that onset symptoms also resemble other symptoms that students might have during a normal year. However, we will continue to follow the guideline from the Ottawa County Health Department