

Monday, August 19, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am very excited to begin my second year as the principal at Hocking Hills Elementary. I consider myself to be very fortunate to be part of the Logan-Hocking School District. Our goal, as a building, is to create a safe learning environment where students are motivated to learn. We are fortunate to have a VERY hardworking staff that is HIGHLY motivated to serve your child. Our staff works hard so that ALL students receive the highest quality education. We also want to make sure that ALL decisions are centered around our students. The first question we will ask in the decision making process will be "WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR STUDENTS?"

I want to keep an open line of communication with parents. My email address is arice@lhsd.k12.oh.us, and the school's number is 740-385-7071 ext. 1205 . Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns. Good communication is a crucial part of an effective school. I will be sending home newsletters and calendars but you can find these in the DOCUMENTS sections under HH section under schools. Please check the website for upcoming information, events, etc...

This past school year our school received several awards for academic success. Hocking Hills received the "School of Promise", "School of Honor" and was designated "Excellent with Distinction" which is the highest designation awarded by the state department of education. This school year Hocking Hills Elementary has received a performance index of 107.4 on the state report card and met all indicators. This is OUTSTANDING! At this time we are waiting on our value added results. We are excitedly anticipating an "Excellent with Distinction" rating, which is the highest report card rating. Again, this demonstrates how hard our staff, students, and parents have worked together as a team. We will continue to work relentlessly for your child so that these high ratings continue. As soon as the results are received from the state I will let you know the results.

Again, I am very excited for this upcoming school year, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone. Hocking Hills Elementary is truly a school where students SHINE!

The following is some information for the upcoming school year.

We will continue with some very successful programs:

- **AR:** Accelerated Reader is a supplemental reading program for our 1st- 4th grade students. Students receive reading goals based on their individual reading levels. During each nine week period students read and take comprehension quizzes based on books they or their

teachers have read. Once a student meets their goal, they come see me for an immediate small reward and the recognition of hearing their names on the announcements. At the end of the grading period, we have an AR assembly where children receive their “big prize”. If children TRIPLE their goal, they have lunch with me or a special guest!

- **Hospital Volunteer Program:** We will continue our community partnership with Hocking Valley Community Hospital. Hospital employees visit our building once a month to provide 30 minute sessions to each class on topics such as Healthy Eating, Medication Safety, Get Moving, etc. We have had great success with this program.
- **S.H.I.N.E.:** SHINE is our behavior plan that stands for **S**HOW RESPONSIBILITY, **H**AVE RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS, **I**N CONTROL, **N**EEDS TO BE SAFE and **E**NVIRONMENTAL CARETAKERS. Please review these rules with your children.
- **www.loganhocking.k12.oh.us:** All school documents can be found on this website. I will continue sending home newsletters and calendars, but **Kroger Rewards Program:** If you register your Kroger card at www.krogercommunityrewards.com, our school receives a percentage of the money you spend. This percentage does not take away from your gas points. It just helps our school. Our school code is 84700. You must have an email address in order to sign up. We use this money for student field trips and other incentives for students. Please sign up and share this with everyone you know. This is not a Kroger credit card: just the regular red Kroger card you use for discounts. To start,
 - Go to:www.krogercommunityrewards.com
 - Click on OHIO
 - Click ENROLL on next page
 - Follow the instructions
 - You'll need your Kroger card and an email address in order to complete the process.
 - The process takes about 5-10 minutes and involves going to the Kroger site.
 - Each quarter, we receive a check and this money is spent on children in the form of rewards such as AR prizes, behavior celebrations, etc.
- **P.T.O** Hocking Hills PTO worked hard last year to provide money for assemblies, field trips and other needed supplies. We have a very hard-working, active PTO. Please feel free to attend PTO meetings. The more the parental involvement the more we can achieve. We will be sending more information out about PTO as the year goes along. Please look for information on our website, calendars, and newsletters that are sent home on Fridays.
- **TIMES TO REMEMBER:** The official school day for Hocking Hills Elementary is 9:20 to 4:00. Although we start serving breakfast at 9:05 and afternoon announcements will begin at 3:50. If picking your child your child up from

school, please be here no later than 3:40. Our buses will leave at 4:00 or a little before.

- **Please make sure-** if your child's after school arrangements change, please notify the school with a note or phone call from a parent or guardian stating the change of your child's arrangements. We can not accept verbal notification from a child.
- **Tardiness and Attendance-** please school website for these policies, you can find these under the DOCUMENTS sections under our HH section under SCHOOLS.

All other pertinent information will be included in folders distributed during Open House. If you are unable to attend, these folders will be sent home with your child the first day of school. It is extremely important papers from these folders are sent back to school as soon as possible.

Thanks for your support of our school and staff. We are looking forward to another outstanding year serving your children!

Go Chieftains!

Mr. Rice
Principal
Hocking Hills Elementary