

Monday, August 1, 2011

Dear Parent and Guardians,

I am very anxious to begin my third year at Hocking Hills Elementary. Our entire staff takes pride in providing a safe, loving, high-achieving atmosphere for your children. We are a school that believes that all children should receive the highest quality of education in a structured, yet nurturing environment. We rely on contact from you to ensure all your child's needs are being met. All of our email addresses include our first initial and last name: tbarrell@lhsd.k12.oh.us

We are excitedly anticipating being deemed an “**Excellent with Distinction**” school by the Ohio Department of Education. Every school in the state receives a report card based on attendance, third and fourth grade achievement scores, (OAA), performance index and value added, (which measures the academic growth of our students). Excellent with Distinction is the highest report card rating and we are very hopeful we will be receiving this honor. I will let all of you know as soon as we find out! *Thank you for your ongoing support of your children and our school, enabling and trusting us to provide their educational needs. I thank you for your commitment in getting your children to school, giving us an outstanding 94% attendance rate.*

District supply lists are at Walmart. Please follow these to know what your child needs to bring on the first day of school. They are listed by grade level. Individual teachers may also have a “wish tree” that will include **optional items** you can purchase for the classroom. See your child’s teacher for this information.

The Logan-Hocking School District is committed in making the district a healthier, more nutritionally conscious environment. I have included with this letter a paper titled, IDEAS FOR HEALTHY CELEBRATIONS. Suggested snacks are listed that can be sent in for school parties. Also included are two sheets titled, SMART SNACKING CHOICES. These are to give you some ideas for packing children’s lunches. All information is for your information only and not meant to be a directive. Please use at your discretion.

The district transportation office will be sending you letters regarding bus routes and drivers. You will receive this in the mail. The bus garage number is 385-7844, extension 0.

We will continue this year 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 9-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!

- **Hospital Volunteer Program:** Last year, we joined in community partnership with Hocking Valley Community Hospital. Under the leadership of HVCH employee, (and HH parent), Ginger Johnson, hospital employees visit our building once a month to provide 30 minutes sessions to each class on topics such as Healthy Eating, Medicine Safety, Get Moving, etc. We had great success with this program last year!
- **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. We credit much of our success the last two years to SHINE and look forward to continuing this theme.
- **After-School Tutoring/grades 3 and 4:** beginning in October-April, we will hold after-school math and reading tutoring for those 3rd and 4th grade students of whom we think would benefit. This is a free service and proved very successful last year. Please be looking for more information in the future.
- **www.loganhocking.k12.oh.us:** All school documents can be found on the district website. I will continue sending home newsletters and calendars but you can find these under the DOCUMENTS sections under our HH section under SCHOOLS.



- **Kroger Rewards Program:**
If you register your Kroger Card at 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 on 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, to your email and back 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 monies for assemblies, field trips and other needed supplies. We have a very hard-working, active PTO. They will be holding a membership drive and will provide information during our August 15 open house, from 4-6 at the building. Please also look for upcoming information regarding a change in PTO meeting nights and a change to how we will recognize students at our meetings.

Open House will be held on Monday, August 15 from 4:00-6:00. We will hold an opening introduction session in the cafeteria from 4:00-4:10. If possible, I encourage you to attend this session. If you are unable to do so, please come in anytime before 6:00, at your convenience. I look forward to meeting you and your children on the 15th. Teachers also love to meet students and parents on open house night, giving them time to explain procedures and to distribute important papers prior to the first day of school.

Some dates and times to remember:

- The official school day for Hocking Hills Elementary is 9:20-4:00 although we start serving breakfast at 9:05 and afternoon announcements will begin at 3:50. If picking your child up from school, please be here no later than 3:40. Our buses will leave at 4:00 or a little before.
- Classes begin on Wednesday, August 17th for students in grades 1-4.

- Classes begin on Monday, August 22nd for Kindergarten and Pre-School students.
- No school September 14, 15, and 16
- No school October 21, January 13 and March 25 due to teacher in-service days.
- Parent teacher conference available dates/times:
 - ❖ November 10 and February 23: pm only
 - ❖ November 11: daytime hours
- We will have conference sign up sheets available during open house. Please sign up if possible.

- Thanksgiving break: November 24-28.
- Christmas break: December 17-January 2.
- Spring break: March 31-April 7.
- May 24: Students last day of school
- 1-hour early dismissal days: November 10, November 23, February 23 and May 24

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.

Class lists will be posted on the front door on Friday, August 12.

Thanks for your continued support of our school and staff. It's our pleasure to serve your children and you!

Mrs. Trina Barrell