

EMERSON CRUSADERS

September 2018 Newsletter

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<http://columbuspublicschools.org/emerson>

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3 ~ NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
September 4 ~ PTO Meeting @ 3:45 North Reading Room
September 5 ~ Early Dismissal @ 2:15
September 7 ~ School Picture Day
September 12 ~ Early Dismissal @ 2:15
September 14 ~ No Preschool
September 14 ~ K - 4 Early Dismissal @11:45
September 18~ Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:00
September 19 ~ Full Day of School, Dismissal @ 3:25
September 20 ~ NO SCHOOL for students
September 20 ~ Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00 - 3:30 and 4:30 - 8:00
September 21 ~ NO SCHOOL
September 26 ~ Early Dismissal @ 2:15



EMERSON PTO

Please consider participating in our Emerson PTO. Meetings will be held quarterly. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4th at 3:45 in our North Reading Room. The first meeting will focus on our bylaws, Title I services, budget, staff gifts and upcoming family events. Input is important and new ideas are always appreciated. The PTO is a wonderful support to our school and the events that take place. Active membership in the PTO is vital for us to continue offering all of our family events, reading celebrations, field trips and teacher gifts to purchase items for the classrooms/students.

EMERSON SCHOOL PICTURES

A picture form with an attached envelope has been sent home with your child. If you wish to order school pictures: the envelope, with an enclosed check or cash, must be with your student on the day of pictures, Friday, September 7th, when the photographer is taking your student's picture. Checks will need to be made out to Interstate Studios. Each student will need to have their own envelope. You may also place your order online by following instructions on the order form. We will begin taking pictures around 9:00 a.m. If afternoon preschool students would like their photos taken, we ask parents to arrive at school at 8:50 a.m., check in at the office and escort your child to the gym.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Fall Parent-Teacher conferences will be September 18th from 4:30 - 8:00 and September 20th from 1:00 - 3:30 and 4:30 - 8:00. A scheduled conference time will be sent home on September 12th. Please check your scheduled time and respond back to the classroom teacher right away if this time does not work so a new time can be scheduled and confirmed. Our Parent-Teacher conference goal is 100% attendance.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I recently read an article from The Washington Post titled *Not all unkindness is bullying. Here's why we need to teach kids to differentiate*. While recognizing the seriousness of bullying, this article expressed the importance of understanding that not all unkind behavior is bullying. We need to realize that children "can be insensitive, thoughtless, immature, mean and even aggressive without it being bullying".

Although we take bullying very seriously, we too must differentiate when a situation is bullying and when students are just making poor choices and need support or to be taught new skills.

At the elementary level we try to take day-to-day events and turn them into teachable moments. Children need to be empowered and demonstrate resilience. We try to listen to our students and show them empathy. We want them to build skills and learn how to handle situations using "I" statements and consider the choices they are in control of during various situations. We want all of our students to understand that their words and their actions do matter.

Emerson students are expected to Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. Our students are taught these skills through our expectation stations in the areas of; classrooms, cafeteria, playground, hallways, entryways, sidewalks, bathroom, arrival and dismissal areas, gym, stairs and health office. These general expectations help provide the students with a common understanding of our school rules. We will explicitly teach and positively reinforce these expectations throughout the school year.

kindness
MATTERS



Our Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST) works with our entire staff to help support our students. We teach and protect kids. We strive to show our students *GRACE* and *ACCOUNTABILITY*. Grace is providing students what they need, not what they deserve. Grace is building strong relationships with our students. Grace is having the courage to hold students accountable because we care too much for them to allow disruptive behaviors. Accountability is having students identify what they did, saying "I'm sorry", recognizing the problem, accepting consequence and accepting help to ensure success.

BIST Goals for Life

1. I can make good choices even if I am mad.
2. I can be okay even if others are not okay.
3. I can do something even if I don't want to (or if it's hard)

LIBRARY BOOK CARE

All of our Crusaders attended library book care lessons. Here are a few reminders:

Always keep Emerson library books in your book bag when not reading them.

Don't eat or drink when reading Emerson library books.

Turn Emerson library book pages at the top right hand corner.

Avoid allowing younger siblings to have access to our Emerson library books.

Report concerns right away, do not try to fix Emerson library books at home.

Bring Emerson library books back to school each day.

WEEKLY CELEBRATIONS

Emerson students are expected to be safe, respectful and responsible at all times. This year we are focusing our weekly celebration on a variety of skills that support these expectations. Our weekly skills are: Greeting others, using appropriate tone of voice, following directions, getting the teacher's attention, asking permission, I can make good choices even if I'm upset, asking for help, staying on task, listening, accepting compliments, accepting criticism or consequences, I can be okay even when others are not okay, accepting NO for an answer, disagreeing appropriately, working with others, sharing something, having a conversation, I can do something even if I don't want to, accountability - being responsible for our behaviors and making an apology, and grace - accepting others and giving others what they need not what they deserve.

Each week, students will learn about one skill and have opportunities to practice the skills. One student from each classroom is recognized for authentically demonstrating the skill. These students are announced during our weekly celebrations and receive a certificate to take home.

Week 1: Bentley Olson, Logan Ralston, Kyler Baechle, Vanessa Couto, Kale Menjivar, Lexa Oliva-Grijalva, Brinlee Klevemann, Ann Buss, Lainey Raman, Alec Bartholomew, Valery Juarez-Vasquez, Peyton Nadrchal

Week 2: Daymon Carlson, Adrian Ramirez-Fierro, Donnie Rivera, Yoni Gonzalez-Mercado, Yesmi Zayas-Ramirez, Avery Christie, Emma Salmeron, Claire Nolet, Grace Ayala, Nathalie Castillo-Perez, Sophia Redler, Bryan Gonzalez

COUNSELOR'S CORNER... Mrs. Darveau darveaug@discoverers.org



I have enjoyed getting into the classroom the first few weeks of school and getting to know your students!

Classroom lessons in September will focus on helping your student succeed in their academic goals. These classroom lessons provide students with skills to help them not only at school, but also throughout their life. Topics that we are focusing on include appropriate academic behavior, having a positive attitude about school, goal setting, and always having a growth mindset.

My job is to be an advocate for your child so they can have a successful and positive school experience. Please don't forget that I am available to meet with parents during conferences to discuss any concerns you may have for your child. Please give me a call or email me (darveaug@discoverers.org) if I can do anything to help your child. I hope your child has had a wonderful year so far and I look forward to meeting everyone!

ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance is critical for student learning. When families have a positive morning routine, children come to school on time, ready to develop relationships, able to learn new concepts, and apply their knowledge. If students do not come to school early to eat breakfast, they should arrive to school between 7:45 - 7:55. The morning bell rings at 7:55 to allow the students five minutes to enter the building and transition into their classrooms before attendance is taken at 8:00. School hours are from 8:00 - 3:25 and 8:00 - 2:15 on early release Wednesdays. Each classroom is working on our PERFECT PUNCTUALITY goal. Every day that a classroom has every student attend and arrive on time, the class gets one step closer to their goal of achieving their perfect punctuality goal. Once the goal has been met, the teacher will celebrate with their class and they will begin their goal again. Students have the opportunity to reach this goal every 18 days of school.

USDA'S FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM GRANT RENEWED

We are excited to announce that Emerson has been awarded \$11,804 by the NE Department of Education. Funds will be used to serve all of our Crusaders either a fresh fruit or fresh vegetable snack 4 days a week. This is the second year that Emerson has been award this grant. Fresh fruits such as oranges, apples, bananas, pears, strawberries, grapes and Kiwi are served. Fresh vegetables such as carrots, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, snap peas, bell peppers, asparagus, jicama, zucchini and squash are also part of our snack experience. Students are provided one serving and are always encouraged to look at it, smell it and taste it even if they are familiar with the food item. Not only are we trying to provide a healthy snack but we also want to expose our students to new foods and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

MEAL TIME

If kindergarten through fourth grade students would like to eat breakfast at school, serving times are from 7:25 - 7:45 each morning. Students should enter through the east doors and go directly to the gym. These doors are heavy so little ones may need adult help until they get use to the routine. Students attending breakfast will stay in the gym area until 7:45 when there is adult supervision for morning line up. All Kindergarten through fourth grade students will line up on the east slab. Preschool will line up on the southwest front slab. We do not serve breakfast or lunch to preschool students. However, if adult family members and younger siblings want to join an Emerson student for lunch, they can call the office to set that up. Lunches will need to be purchased as commercial foods are not permitted in the lunchroom.

Reduced Breakfast: \$0.30

Regular Breakfast: \$1.90

Adult Breakfast: \$2.15

Reduced Lunch: \$0.40

Regular Lunch: \$2.65

Adult Lunch: \$3.70

We encourage you to pay for meals with a check; however, cash can be brought to the office where you can receive a receipt of payment. If students bring cash to school, we are not responsible for lost or stolen money. Free and Reduced lunch applications are available. Parents are encouraged to apply. **Last year's free & reduced status expires on October 1st so a new form is required each year.**



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Emerson has an amazing After School Program, which runs after school to 6:00 p.m. Our program supports the instructional day with homework support, tutoring, peer helpers, reading buddies, computer skills and reading time. Our program also offers a variety of activity choices and clubs. If you are interested in enrolling your child in the Communities Together Can After School Program please call Stacey at 402-563-4901 or stop by their office located at 2715 13th Street, Columbus, NE 68601. Fees are based on free/reduced lunch status.

It is important to notify the After School Program at 402-276-6427, when your child will be absent from the program. This includes if your child leaves school due to illness.

COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Engaging All Learners to Achieve Success

