



Dowds Elementary School September 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! It is such an exciting time for all of us, as we welcome our Little Whippets back from a very long time away and prepare for a year of learning and growing together. Our teachers and staff have already been hard at work and we are so glad to have each of our students back with us as part of the Dowds family.

We have a couple new faces joining us this year. Mrs. Tara Mullins is our new intervention aide. Mrs. Alexis Henderson and Mr. Tim Smith are our new playground monitors. We are so lucky to have them helping us grow every day at Dowds!

Our PTO is already hard at work, (virtually) planning some new and exciting events for the school year. The annual PTO fundraiser kicks off on September 18 and runs through October 2. We are trying a new idea this year, with a calendar bonanza to collect sponsors and donations, instead of a sale. PTO has heard feedback from many families that they would prefer a donation rather than selling items, so in this completely "different" year, we thought we'd give it a try! We will have more details to share when the calendars come home the week of September 14. PTO is very generous in their support of our teachers, field trips, technology, fun activities, classroom projects, and other resources to give each of our students the best experience possible at Dowds. We hope PTO can resume all of their normal activities soon! You can also contact our PTO any time to volunteer, donate, or with questions at dowdspto@gmail.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with questions, comments, feedback, or compliments. Our door is always open at Dowds. Please visit our website often for updates, important information, and upcoming events at the following: www.shelbyk12.org/dowds. Go Whippets!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kaple-Jones
jones.kristin@shelbyk12.org
(419) 342-4641

Upcoming Important Dates:

9/4: PTO Spirit Wear Orders and Payment DUE; Summer Reading Ice Cream Party (grades 1-4)
9/7: *NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)*
9/16: **2-HOUR EARLY RELEASE (1:15 P.M.)**
9/18-10/2: PTO Fundraiser
9/22: SCRAP Recycling, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
10/9: Fall Picture Day
10/16: *NO SCHOOL (Inservice Day)*
10/21: **Grade 3 Reading OST (Part 1)**
10/22: **Grade 3 Reading OST (Part 2)**
10/26-10/30: Parent/Teacher Conference Week
10/27: SCRAP Recycling, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Don't forget to sign up for the Shelby City Schools Notification System to receive text messages and/or e-mails regarding important bus and school information, including reminders, emergency information, and weather updates. Go to the SCS Homepage (www.shelbyk12.org) and click on the SCS Text Alerts link to do so. Find us on Facebook, too: Search "Dowds Elementary School" and send a request to be added to our private page.

Just a reminder that school starts at **8:40 a.m.** Please do not allow students to arrive before **8:20 a.m.**, as there is no supervision until that time. Students should arrive to school with enough time to be unpacked and ready to start learning at 8:40 a.m. Any student arriving after 8:40 a.m. will be marked tardy. Dismissal will be at **3:15 p.m.** Thank you!



Breakfast will be available from 8:20-8:40.

School meal prices are as follows:

Breakfast: \$1.25 (reduced \$.30)
Lunch: \$2.75 (reduced \$.40)
*Milk: \$.50

*Students receiving meal benefits who choose to pack a lunch will still be required to purchase milk at a cost of \$.50 if desired.

We encourage you to pre-pay for students' meals each week. You can now also pay on-line. Find information about how to do so through the K12 Payment Center at:

<http://www.shelbyk12.org/food-service>



*We are collecting Box Tops!
You may send them to school
with your student or scan them
on the app. We appreciate
your support!*



Important Reminder Regarding Medication:

According to state law, the school is NOT permitted to administer *any* medication to students at school (including cough drops, Tylenol, etc.) without the signed consent of a physician on a Medication Administration Record (MAR) form (available in the office, or on the Dowds website for download). We can always fax a form to your physician's office if a last-minute need should arise. Students are also NOT permitted to bring over-the-counter or prescription medication (including cough drops) to school with them. Please do **NOT** send these medications to school with students without an MAR. Parents can come to the school and administer any medication to a student if the need arises. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are interested in volunteering or chaperoning at Dowds this year, please contact your child's teacher or the office to obtain the appropriate forms for your BCI/FBI check (cost is paid by the BOE with form and is good for 5 years).

If you already have a current BCI/FBI check for another purpose, just forward a copy of it to the BOE or send it to school. You will also need to complete the Volunteer Release Form. ALL volunteers must be Board-approved with a current BCI/FBI check on file ahead of time in order to chaperone any events off of school property. Please do not delay in completing this, as they can take up to 6 weeks to process. Thank you for your time!



School Fee Information:

School fees* for grades K-4 for the 2018-2019 school year are \$30. Fees may be paid at any time in the school office. There is an additional \$10 computer charge this year to cover any repairs or necessary replacement of Chromebooks (this is not waived based on meal status, etc.). Fees and charges may be paid online or in the office.

*Fees are waived for students receiving meal benefits.

SMILE! FALL PICTURE DAY IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9.



Retakes will be on November 20.

Attention Parents of Car Riders:

The Shelby Police Department has given us instructions about how to most safely route traffic in and out of our parking lot for drop-off and pick-up. Please follow these guidelines:

- **Morning drop-off:** Please only use Seneca Drive to get in and out of the north parking lot (next to our playground). The Police Department would like for traffic to come down Mickey Road and turn onto Seneca Drive (please do not come in from Rte. 39). This will allow all traffic to make a right-hand turn into Dowds' parking lot. Upon exiting the parking lot, please turn back onto Seneca Drive and go back out to Mickey Road. This will prevent back-up for traffic waiting to turn left onto Rte. 39.
- ALL students should make their way around to the front of the building for morning line-up. ALL students will be dismissed into the building through the front doors (even those car riders dropped off in our side parking lot).
- **Afternoon pick-up:** As in the past, we ask that you park in our north lot and come up to the building to pick up your student(s) so that we can ensure that each child is being released to a designated adult for pick-up.
- The front doors of the building are reserved for bus drop-off and pick-up only.
- We ask that you please not park in the teachers' parking lot on the south side of the building.
- We appreciate your cooperation with these traffic safety guidelines for our students' safety and for your fellow drivers.
- **Please be sure to yield at the crosswalk.**

Please wear a mask or face covering any time you enter the building and at car rider pick-up at the end of the day. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping us all safe and healthy, and most importantly, in school!



Please send a clean face covering/mask with students each day. Don't forget a water bottle, too!

Did you know that our monthly SCRAP Recycling supports Dowds School?

It's good for the environment and for our school! Please save your #1 & #2 plastics, steel and aluminum cans, corrugated cardboard, white paper, and newspapers for recycling.

The SCRAP trailer comes on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Recycling items can also be dropped off on collection day before 2:00 p.m. alongside the building if you cannot make it during collection time.

Thank you for conserving the environment and supporting Dowds School!



Important Attendance Reminders:

(pages 11-12 in the Handbook)

- We implement and enforce attendance policies for the safety and accountability of all of our students. We appreciate your support in doing your best to ensure that students are present in school all day, every day to help them get the most out of their educational experience.
- **According to HB 410, every absence, even those that are excused, results in a loss of instructional time for the student. Therefore, all tardies, absences, and early dismissals (even those that are excused with a note from a professional's office) must be counted toward a child's attendance record.**
- Parents must contact the office at (419) 342-4641 to report an absence within 2 hours of the start of the school day (by 10:40 a.m.). If no phone call is received, students should bring a written note concerning the absence upon their return to school.
- Please do not allow students to arrive at school before **8:20 a.m.** (teachers and staff are not on duty to provide supervision until this time).
- Any student who arrives after 8:40 a.m. is considered tardy.
- Any student who leaves before 3:15 p.m. will be counted as an early release (*please do not pick students up early unless there is an emergency or appointment*).
- A student who is absent 38 or more hours in a month or 65 or more hours in a school year will be placed on Excessive Absence Status, which will require documentation or approval for any further absence time and may lead to referral to Richland County Juvenile Court for formal truancy proceedings.
- If a student is absent for more than 120 hours during a school year, the student can be required to repeat the grade.

A friendly reminder regarding outdoor recess and gym class: It is our school policy that students bring **close-toed shoes** for outdoor recess and gym class for their safety. We don't want any injured toes or scraped chins and close-toed shoes help to prevent many trips and falls. Please let us know at school if your child needs a pair. Thank you for helping our Little Whippets to enjoy recess and gym class to the fullest!



All required (Yearly Student Form Packet) and optional (Free/Reduced Meal Application) are available to complete on the school website: www.shelbyk12.org (choose "Forms" at the top right). Thank you for completing these in a timely manner!

You can also pay your student's school fees and computer charge and register for a lunch account to check their balance, etc., online. You will need your student's ID number for both of these, which we can provide for you in the office.



Attention, 3rd and 4th Grade Families:

Please mark your calendar for Ohio's State Test (OST) dates:

- **Wednesday, 10/21: Grade 3 ELA (Part 1)**
- **Thursday, 10/22: Grade 3 ELA (Part 2)**
- **Monday, 4/19: Grade 4 ELA (Part 1)**
- **Tuesday, 4/20: Grade 3 ELA (Part 1)**
- **Wednesday, 4/21: Grade 4 ELA (Part 2)**
- **Thursday, 4/22: Grade 3 ELA (Part 2)**
- **Tuesday, 5/4: Grade 4 Math**
- **Wednesday, 5/5: Grade 3 Math**

Ohio's
State
Tests



Please do not schedule appointments on these dates. Thank you!

Student Pictures and Images

At various times throughout the year, we may use pictures and images of students (on the school website, for awards or special recognition, submission to the local media, etc.). At no time will we use the child's name with their image. Please contact Mrs. Kaple-Jones in writing if you do not want us to use your child's image or picture.

"i water you,
you water me;
we grow
together."

Be sure to place your order for an official Dowds spirit shirt! The sale runs through September 4. Shirts are sold at cost (\$8.00) and students will wear them throughout the year. Parents and family members are welcome to order one, too! Hoodies and long-sleeve t-shirts are also available. Orders are pre-paid only (cash or check to *Dowds PTO*). Extra order forms are available on the Dowds Facebook page or in the office.



From Miss Fairchild in Guidance...

In classroom lessons, we've discussed COVID safety as well as being a great distance learner in case we are online at all this year. We will also talk about back to school feelings, changes, a new year, and coping with stress. We will focus heavily on feelings and coping strategies this year as I know we've all felt lots of different feelings the past five months. Please don't forget to fill out my Coping with COVID-19 needs assessment!

**Early
Release
Day!**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, IS

A 2-HOUR EARLY RELEASE.

Students will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m. Please let your child's teacher or the office know if their dismissal arrangements will change.