
THE AMBERLY ADVANTAGE

A School Community Dedicated to Providing a Nurturing and Challenging Learning Environment for All.

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"My Teacher is Mean!"

From The Love & Logic Institute

As a parent and an educator, there aren't too many things more distressing than hearing a child say, "I can't go to school. My teacher is so mean!" We don't want to see our children in pain, especially when it is perceived to be caused by someone we need to trust for their emotional and mental well-being on a daily basis. So, what can you say or do when your child comes home from school and complains about his or her teacher?

The most important thing to remember is the vast majority of teachers are caring, dedicated, and well trained. Each has his or her own style, and children need to learn how to adapt. Just as children benefit from teachers who are very warm & patient, they also can learn from some who are more business-like and demanding. Children even gain valuable life lessons from a caring teacher who is strict and no-nonsense.

If your child is having trouble adjusting to his/her teacher, here are some easy-to-learn Love and Logic tips to effectively deal with the situation:

Tip 1: Listen & empathize if your child complains about a teacher.

When a child says something like, "My teacher is mean. I hate her," what s/he needs most is a loving ear, not lectures, threats or someone to "fix" the problem. Wise parents respond by asking, "You really don't like her? That must be tough. If any kid is smart enough to find a way to get along with her, it would be you." Be sure to let the child know how much you love him or her, and be willing to listen to any concerns.

Tip 2: Resist the urge to talk badly about your child's teacher or school.

Regardless of how much we might disagree with our child's teacher or school, it is imperative to send our kids the following message: "Teachers are to be respected and listened to. You may not always agree with what they say or do, but it is NEVER acceptable for you to be disrespectful or disobedient toward them."

Parents who make the mistake of saying negative comments about teachers in front of their children are setting their kids up for academic failure. When parents encourage children to learn how to positively deal with difficult teachers and stressful situations, their kids learn how to overcome challenges and solve their own problems. In other words, we rob our kids of an important learning opportunity if we allow them to blame teachers for their problems.

Tip 3: Help your child understand that having a tough teacher is a good thing.

Smart parents ask their kids, "Why is it good that you have a tough teacher this year?" When their children shrug their shoulders and answer, "I don't know," these parents respond by saying, "You're going to have a chance to learn you can be successful with even the most difficult people. That's one of the most useful skills in life!"

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“My Teacher is Mean!” - *continued*

Tip 4: Remember: By teaching children to get along with a demanding teacher, we also are teaching them how to succeed with a demanding boss.

Research has shown employees get along with even the most demanding bosses when they:

- *Get to work just a bit early every day*
- *Show up with a smile and a positive attitude*
- *Listen and follow directions*
- *Work a bit harder than expected*
- *Get along well with other employees and customers*

Kids who learn these skills at home and at school succeed with the most difficult teachers, get better grades, and eventually rise to the top of their chosen occupation.

Tip 5: Get involved only as a last resort

Wise parents intervene on behalf of their children only when it is clear the teacher is so incompetent or negative that even the best behaved and most responsible student would find it impossible to adapt.

Fortunately, these types of educators are rare.

When we follow these tips, we give our kids the gift of knowing they can succeed around all different types of people. Unfortunately, some parents steal this wonderful opportunity by trying to make sure their children’s teachers are “perfect.” Sadly, as adults, many of these children spend their lives being unhappy because other people are “mean” or “unfair.”

Don’t fall into this trap! Use these Love and Logic tips, and give your kids the responsibility and self-confidence they deserve.



End of the School Year Reminders



The school year is quickly coming to an end and there are many tasks that need to be taken care of before we can say goodbye for summer vacation.

- ***No cash refund will be made for balances on Food Service Accounts.*** Balances remaining will be carried over for the upcoming school year. Please plan meal payments accordingly through the end of the school year.
- Any medication housed in the school office must be picked up by parents/guardians by June 12th. After this date, medication remaining in the school office will be appropriately disposed of.
- ***If you are moving, please notify the school office as soon as possible.***
- If a new family moves in your neighborhood over the summer, please encourage them to register their children for school as soon as possible at the Administration Building on South Westledge Avenue.
- As the weather warms up a reminder that the Portage Public Schools Dress Code for students requires that dress not be disruptive to the educational process. ***Students are to refrain from wearing “short shorts”, strapless tops, spaghetti strap shirts, bare midriffs, or pants/shorts that “sag” so undergarments are in view. Flip flops should not be worn to school on gym days and/or outside at recess time. Students should also not wear any clothing to school that advertises or promotes drugs or alcohol.***

♪ Music, Music ♪ Music!



First and fifth graders will be performing for family and friends during the final months of school! **First grade** students will be performing a musical for family and friends on **Friday, May 1st at 2 p.m.** **The Fifth Grade Choir** will be presenting their final concert at Amberly on **Wednesday, May 20th at 7 p.m.** Both performances will take place in the Amberly gym. **Please mark your calendars and plan on seeing our talented students perform.**

April & May Birthday Celebrations



Students with birthdays during the month of April will enjoy an ice cream sundae cup with Mrs. Daoust on Tuesday, April 28th and students with May birthdays will celebrate on Friday, May 29th. Students will have a choice of a vanilla, chocolate or strawberry ice cream sundae cups. There are no nuts in the sundae cups – just ice cream and flavored syrup. ***If your child has food sensitivities to any ingredients that may be found in any of the ice cream cups, please contact the office so a substitute treat can be provided.*** If your family does not celebrate birthdays, please also inform the office and an invitation will not be sent to your child.



Ice Cream Social May 28th!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 28th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. for the annual Amberly Ice Cream Social. The Ice Cream Social is an event in which we, as a school, say “thank you” to the very supportive and active families of Amberly Elementary School. ***Plan to stop by the Amberly Cafeteria and enjoy some delicious ice cream and camaraderie on Thursday, May 28th!***

Secretaries Day April 22nd !



Two main reasons Amberly is such a great place to learn and grow are our **OUTSTANDING SECRETARIES**, Michele Frey and Linda Dunphey. These two ladies are constantly serving the needs of students, teachers, and parents/guardians and always do so in a pleasant and positive manner. ***Please be sure to stop by or send a note of thanks to Michele and Linda on Secretaries Day, Wednesday, April 22nd!***

ACES DAY May 6th – 10 a.m.!



Amberly students will be taking part in Project ACES on May 6th! ACES stands for “All Children Exercise Simultaneously” and was created by Len Saunders in 1989 as a method of motivating children to exercise. ACES takes place on the first Wednesday in May as part of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month along with National Physical Education Week. It has been labeled as “the world’s largest exercise class” by the media. Since 1989, millions of children from all over the world exercise together to promote proper health and fitness habits. With the obesity epidemic facing the youth of the world, children’s fitness plays a major role in fighting heart disease.



Spring Pictures Thursday, April 23rd !

Spring Pictures will be taken on Thursday, April 23rd. Information and order forms have been sent home with students in Friday Folders. There are a number of different picture backgrounds to choose from. **Please be sure to mark which background you would like on the order form.** ***Only students who have an order form with payment will have their pictures taken.***

Amberly Tiger Trek:

Collect Pledges & Get Ready to Walk

On April 24th!!

The Amberly Tiger Trek will occur **next Friday, April 24th**! This event is being sponsored by APT and is a non-catalog fundraiser that supports healthy living, exercise, and active student involvement. Tiger Trek is replacing the fall catalog fundraiser we have had in the past. **Pledge sheets are due on Monday, April 20th**. No money is due at that time. Pledges can be a flat dollar amount or a per lap amount. After the Tiger Trek on April 24th, families will have approximately 2 weeks to collect pledges.

Students are encouraged to wear Amberly t-shirts, sweatshirts or clothing that is orange and black for the Tiger Trek. Students will walk/run on Friday, April 24th in grade level teams as scheduled below:

9:20 – 10:00 a.m.:	First Grade
10:10- 10:40 a.m.:	AM Young Fives and Kindergarten
10:50 – 11:30:	Fifth Grade
11:40 – 12:20:	Fourth Grade
12:30 - 1:10	Third Grade
1:20- 2:00	Second Grade
2:10-2:40	PM Young Fives and Kindergarten

Parents/guardians and family members are encouraged to attend Tiger Trek to support our Amberly students. If you are interested in volunteering the day of Tiger Trek, please contact Erin Simon at 353-9530 or at simon5593@sbcglobal.net

***PUT YOUR BEST
PAW
FORWARD AND
GO FOR IT!***

By Sarah Richards & The Paw-i-
Neers
(Mrs. Simunovic's 4th Grade
Class)



**Put your best paw
forward and go for
it!**

**Amberly Tigers
are really fit!**

**Let's raise money
like true champs,
so when in 5th
grade
we can go to
camp!**

School and Take Your Child to Work Day

Thursday, April 23rd is a school day in which we expect students to be in attendance unless they are ill or have a family emergency. If a parent chooses not to have their child attend school on Thursday, April 23rd, that is their prerogative; however, learning and teaching will continue in the classroom during their child's absence. We realize observing how academics are put in action in the work place is a very valuable experience; however, *we encourage parents/guardians and employers to offer these experiences to students during summer or winter break when school is not in session.*

District Tornado Watch/Warning Policy



In the event the National Weather Service declares a Tornado Watch or Warning, students will be retained at school until the regular time of dismissal or until such time, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, students can be safely dismissed.

Amberly students practice Severe Weather Drills on a regular basis and will be evacuated to appropriate shelter areas within the building for safety during times of severe weather.

Fifth Graders Visit WMS

Amberly fifth grade students will be visiting West Middle School on Thursday, April 30th to assist with their transition to this level next year. Students will tour the building, meet administration and teachers and hear from current middle school students about how to be successful in grades 6-8.

Thank YOU For Your Support

Thank you to all Amberly families who participate in the many fundraising projects we do. This school year we have received \$200 from Target Take Charge in Education, \$1287 in General Mills Box Top rebates, and \$100 from Cartridges for Kids. All these funds are used to purchase needed equipment, pay for Birthday Celebrations and assist in paying for additional enrichment activities. Thank YOU!!!

Binder Park Zoo Presentations May 7th & 8th



The Binder Park Zoomobile will be at Amberly on May 7th and 8th! The Zoomobile programs not only advance our science curriculum, but also provide an unique opportunity for students to enjoy the animals and experience the wonders of nature. Be ready to hear about all the unique animals your child will experience on May 7th and 8th!

PPS and Amberly List Service

Parents/guardians of Portage Public School students are encouraged to sign up for the district and their child(ren)'s school list-service. You may subscribe from your own computer, which allows you to manage your account and continue to receive email messages when you change email addresses, or to "un-subscribe" when you no longer wish to receive the messages.

If you have not already subscribed to the PPS or Amberly list-service, please visit the PPS homepage at www.portageps.org and click on the icon on the lower right of the page. You may also go directly to the list-service sign up page at:

http://www.portageps.org/Sign-Up_Forms/sign-up_form_district.aspx

At this site you will be able to sign up for any individual school's list-service as well as the District list-service.

Register today for Curious Kids Summer & Fall Programs

Curious Kids is a district run licensed child care program offering structured activities in a safe and caring environment. Curious Kids offers child care to all children in the community for children ages 6 weeks to 14 years, as well as ½ day preschool for 3 & 4 year olds! Curious Kids promotes positive social interactions and offers interesting and fun activities for children. Via the Portage Public School buses, transportation is provided to Curious Kids to and from your child's elementary school. Please call 323-6780 or go to the PPS webpage at www.portageps.org for further information!

Attention Parents/Guardians of Bus Riders

Do You Want Your Child To Ride A Bus To School In 2009/20010?

Do you want your student to ride the school bus next year?

Do you want to save time and money and help the environment at the same too?

With the start of the 2009-10 school year the Portage Public Schools will be requiring all parents requesting transportation to register their students for bus service.

Portage students will ***not*** be scheduled for bus service unless the parents/guardians notify the transportation department in writing. You may sign up online after May 1 at www.portageps.org; or you may download the form at <http://www.portageps.org/departments/transportation/requestform.aspx>: and submit it to the transportation office.

If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a Transportation Request form at any Portage school or transportation office.

Obtaining an accurate list of students who will actually be riding our buses is very important for us to design efficient, low cost bus routes and to assure the safety of the students.

As a reminder, all students may be expected to walk up to 1-½ miles to school. Elementary students may walk up to ½ mile to a bus stop and middle & high students may walk up to 1 mile to a bus stop wherever appropriate walkways and traffic signs are available. Eligible students signing up for transportation will be assigned to bus stops based on their home address.

If you would like your students to ride the bus next year, please sign up early. Bus assignments will be based on the student's home address as listed on the schools records. Students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in late August with specific transportation information.

Students not replying by June 30 may compromise our ability to provide timely bus service in the fall.

For more information, please ask your bus driver or call Transportation at 323-5151. Thank you in advance for your timely responses.



Pets On School Grounds



Spring has arrived and many of our four-legged friends are ready to be outside. While many people love animals at Amberly Elementary School, we need to be sensitive to those who have allergies and/or may fear animals. All pet visits to school must be pre-approved by the teacher to insure student safety and that no child will have their health put at risk due to an animal allergy. In addition, our students vary in their comfort levels with animals. We do not want to disrupt the educational environment by having to deal with a frightened child due to an unexpected encounter with an animal. ***All pet visits to school must be pre-approved by the classroom teacher.*** ***Also, please do not bring your pet to school when dropping off or picking up your child.***

