



12th Street Times

September 9, 2011

Dear 12th Street Families,

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! We are having a fantastic week learning the daily procedures and routines as we get to know one another. It is exciting to be greeting you and your children and watching the learning that is occurring each day.

School Hours for 2011-12: First bell is at 8:25 daily.

Young 5's and Kindergarten	8:30-11:35am
	12:35-3:46pm
First -Fifth Grades	8:30am - 3:46pm

As we begin the school year together we are teaching our P.A.W.S. expectations to all of the students.

Practice Kindness Act Respectfully Work Responsibly Safety

These guidelines are the foundation for how we work and play together in our community at 12th Street. As you travel through the building you will notice posters explaining expectations for each area in the building.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the P.T.O. opening day coffee at 8:45a.m. in the cafeteria. We are looking forward to a similar large turnout at our first PTO meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 20th, 7:00p.m. in the Media Center. If you are new to 12th Street this is a great opportunity to get to know families and staff members and find a multitude of ways to get involved at school.

We are always mindful of safety at school. Please be aware of our traffic patterns for cars and busses as students learn the routines for arriving and departing from school. Busses will be in the south loop, no parking or car traffic in this area. Traffic flow in the private vehicle loop is from South to North. Students are to be dropped off from the passenger side of vehicles along the sidewalk. If you plan to enter the building with your child, park in either of the two parking lots. The traffic loop is strictly for drop off and pick up - Do not park in the loop. Thanks for your cooperation with this critical aspect of our days at school. Staff members will be available to help as needed, let us know of any questions or concerns. Also, please be patient with bus routes as the construction at Milham, 12th and Texas Drive continues. Bus routes have been adjusted and you will be updated as the construction progresses and is completed. I will remain in communication with Transportation and share updates as they are available.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year three for 12th Street Elementary! This is a time to continue building our community, establishing our traditions and seeing our students learn and succeed at the highest levels possible for each child.. I look forward to seeing you at our Open House on Thursday, September 15th from 6-7:30.

Let us know of any questions or concerns you have as we work together to have the best year ever at 12th Street Elementary.

Sincerely,

Beth Green, Principal

September, 2011

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Portage, MI 49024

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269-323-6900
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323-6990

****IMPORTANT
COMMUNICATION
UPDATE ON PAGE 3**

Beth Green
Principal

Melanie Sage
Lynn Daniel
Administrative Assistants



Notes from the Office

Last Minute Changes

If your child's after school routine will change, please be sure to communicate this to your child and to your child's teacher **in writing prior** to sending your child to school. The secretaries can be overwhelmed by parental phone calls at the end of the school day requesting changes in student schedules. These last minute changes can result in confusion and mistakes for all involved – students, teachers, bus drivers and parents. **Please take the time to write a note before school!** We are unable to verify a person's identity over the phone, so we ask that you do not call with last minute transportation changes unless it is an absolute and true emergency. We appreciate your cooperation. Our number one concern is your child's safety.

Attendance Calls

State law requires us to receive a phone call or phone message if your student will be late or absent. We are unable to accept an email or fax. If you have done this in the past, please be aware that we can no longer accept these forms of communication. Our attendance line is available 24 hours by calling 323-6900. Please leave a message with your child's name, the name of his/her teacher and the reason for the absence. If you are planning an absence in advance, you may send a handwritten note to the teacher and they will forward it to the office. It is most helpful if you place your attendance calls before 9:00 am.

BREAKFAST REMINDER

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. We serve breakfast daily starting at 8:00 every morning!

HEARING AND VISION TESTING

School-wide hearing and vision testing will be done on October 17-20. Hearing is tested in grades Kindergarten, Second and Fourth. Vision is tested in grades First, Third and Fifth. Make Up screening date will be on November 7.

Student Directory Opt Out

Portage Public Schools occasionally provides student directories to organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations, colleges and libraries offering special programs to school age children, and political action committees. This information may include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, parent/guardian name(s), honors, activities, and awards, grade level, and dates of attendance. Parents wishing to opt a student out of directory listings should contact the main office in writing to request omission. Please note – exercising this right will exclude this information from all external requests for directory information, including P.T.O.'s. It will not impact the inclusion of information in school publications such as yearbooks, school newspapers, extra-curricular programs, etc. If you wish your student's information excluded from these publications as well, please contact the school's main office.



Appointments

We understand that it is not always possible to schedule doctor or dentist appointments outside of school hours. When you need to pull your child out of school for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher the morning of the appointment. A handwritten note or e-mail that can be forwarded to the office is most appreciated. We prefer to pull your child out when you arrive. Having a student wait in the office at a specific time, makes the child miss too much valuable classroom time. We will do our best to have your child in the office in a timely manner upon your arrival. When your student returns to school or comes in late, please be sure they sign in on the purple sheet in the office or they will be marked absent for the entire day. Thank you.

9/15 Open House 6:00-7:30

9/20 PTO Meeting 7:00 in the Media Center

9/23 Off and Running Fundraiser During School

10-17-10/21 Pop Can Drive for Holiday Giving

SKI CLUB

12th Street Ski Club is now looking for members. Please email 12thski@gmail.com to get up to date information with details and meeting information.



IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION UPDATE

We would like to become as paperless as possible for the 2011/12 school year. If you have regular access to a computer, please sign up for our email list at:

<http://www.portageps.org/schools/elementary/twl/>

We will email a reminder that the newsletter is available online and we will keep you up to date on important issues as they arise. Signing up for this service will mean that you will NOT receive a hard copy of the newsletter in your child's Friday folder and you agree to read it online. If you do not have regular access to a computer with web access or you are not interested in reading it online, please fill out the form below and return it to your teacher to request a copy for your child's folder.

I AM REQUESTING THAT A HARD COPY OF THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER BE SENT HOME WITH MY STUDENT(S).

Student's name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

2011-2012 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 6: First semester begins, First Day for Students (half-day)

Friday, November 4: No school (professional development)

Wednesday, November 16: Evening conferences

Thursday, November 17: Evening conferences (90-minute early dismissal)

Wednesday, November 23: No school (comp day)

Thursday-Friday, November 24 - 25: Thanksgiving Recess

December 26 – January 6: Winter Recess

Monday, January 9: School Resumes

Monday-Thursday, January 23-26: High School Exams

Friday, January 27: No school, end 1st Semester

Monday, January 30: First Day, 2nd Semester

Tuesday, February 21: Evening conferences

Wednesday, February 22: Evening conferences

Friday, February 24: Mid-Winter Break, No school

Thursday, March 29: Half-day of school (afternoon professional development)

Friday, March 30: No school (Spring Friday)

April 2 – April 6: Spring Recess

Monday, April 9: School Resumes

Wednesday, May 23: Community High School graduation

Thursday, May 24: Central High School graduation

Friday, May 25: Northern High School graduation

Monday, May 28: No school (Memorial Day)

Friday, June 1: Last day for all students (half-day)



Due to Acts 636 and 637 of the Michigan State Department of Agriculture's Pesticide notification of schools, we are required to inform you of your scheduled pest control service days. The following is a list of service dates at 12th Street for the 2011-2012 school year.

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Tuesday November 1, 2011

Tuesday December 6, 2011

Tuesday January 3, 2012

Tuesday February 7, 2012

Tuesday March 6, 2012

Tuesday April 3, 2012

Tuesday May 1, 2012

Tuesday June 5, 2012

Testing Note

Over the next few weeks, Portage Public Schools will administer the Performance Series assessment from Scantron® to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Performance Series assessments are computer adaptive, multiple-choice assessments with questions that automatically adapt to each student's ability level, independent of the student's enrolled grade level. All students will be tested in Math and Reading. Each assessment will last approximately 1 hour and will be given in the computer lab. These assessments will provide data so that teachers can diagnose the instructional needs of students