**SCHOOL START TIME. . .**

![MCj04315860000[1]]()

School begins at 8:20am, with the final bell ringing at 8:30am. School is dismissed for the day at 3:35pm. PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL! Our instructional time is very valuable to me and our class!

Also, I **love** to see parents bring their kids to class in the mornings and talk briefly with me about comments or concerns. However, please remember that class does officially start at 8:30. If you have an extensive concern about class or your child, please schedule an appointment with me so that we do not take up morning class time chatting ☺! I feel a strong need to connect with my students in the morning. However, I am always happy and more than willing to meet before school, during planning time, during my lunch time, or after school to discuss any issues with you!

**ABSENCES. . .**

****

If your child will not be attending school and you know in advance, please send me a note. If your child is sick, please call the office at 269-692-6099 **BEFORE** 9:15am.

**SICK CHILDREN. . .**

Tummy aches are common in first grade—and they seem to “spread” rather quickly… as soon as one person has one, everybody has one! If your child has a serious health problem that I should be aware of, please let me know. Or, if your child complains of not feeling well at home and you’d like me to keep a close eye on him/her, please let me know that as well (it is really helpful if you can let me know without letting your child hearing you tell me)! ☺

**IMPORTANT BUSING INFO. . .**

![MMj03957760000[1]]()

It is **IMPERATIVE** that I receive a note from the custodial parent if your child’s bus situation changes. **The school requires written permission from the parent** if your child’s end of the day routine is going to be different than usual (to ride a different bus home, stay after for an after school program, or be picked up by someone). Children often worry about changes in their routine and the note will help me to reassure your child if anything changes. If I do not receive a note, I will have to send your child home on his/her regular routine. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

### C.A.M.P. COMMUNICATION FOLDER. . .

Your child will bring home a green school-to-home communication folder EVERY DAY! Please help me foster responsibility in your child by encouraging him/her to show you the papers in his/her folder each day. Also, look for a weekly newsletter that will look similar to this letter that will be sent home at the beginning of each week. This folder will also be a great place for you to stick notes, lunch money envelopes, etc. that you would like me to see. I will check the folders each morning!

**1st**

**Grade**

**NEWSLETTERS. . .**

A weekly newsletter will come home with your child at the beginning of each week. Please take the time to read through each newsletter as it will contain important information regarding upcoming events as well as keep you informed on what happening in the classroom.

**HOMEWORK FOLDER. . .**

I am requesting that your child bring in a separate folder to send homework home in. Homework will be sent home in the homework folder on Monday and must be returned no later than Friday.

* Math ![MC900088956[1]]()
* Reading (logs, book-it, book bags)
* Site Words/Spelling Words
* Math Facts

**LUNCH/MILK MONEY. . .**

![MCj02958540000[1]]()

Please send lunch money to school with your child to class in an envelope with his/her name on it! Some parents like to send in the money daily and others prefer to send it in large amounts. If your account becomes overdue, you will receive a notice stating the amount that has been overcharged. Elementary lunch and breakfast prices are as follows:

Reduced Breakfast: .30 ¢ per day

Regular Breakfast: $ 1.10 per day

Reduced Lunch: .40 ¢ per day

Regular Lunch: $ 1.60 per day

Milk: .40 ¢ per milk

If you need a free/reduced lunch form to fill out, they are available in any school office or cafeteria. A NEW APPLICATION NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT EVERY YEAR and submitted on the first day of school or ASAP.

**DIX ST. ELEMENTARY RULES. . .**

* Respect yourself and others.
* Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
* Use only kind words and actions
* Act safely at all times.

**ELEMENTARY HALLWAYS. . .**

🡪 SAFE – ORDERLY – SILENT

**OUR CLASSROOM RULES. . .**

“Don’t be a Little Stinker”.

 Our classroom rules are very similar to the school guidelines, with more specifics added. Please review them with your child and talk about positive school behavior!

* ![C:\Documents and Settings\nknight-lucas\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6HC3U80N\MC900084160[1].wmf]()Always safe!
* Always kind!
* Always respectful!
* Always responsible!
* Always Excited About Learning

white card – **Outstanding Camp Champ!**

**blue card** – **Good job**

“**Going above and beyond”**

**purple card – Making great choices**

 Exceeding expectations

~**green card – Ready to Learn**

  Good behavior, no reminders

 **~ yellow card- Slow Down**!

 Caution, Straying off the path.”

  orange card - **Think About It!**

 behavior meeting with the teacher/and or 5 min.thinking time

**~ red card Yikes! Skunk zone –**

 **Contact Home**

 no recess, phone call and/or note home

**~extreme situations or frequent red cards (principal’s office)**

**SCHOOL HANDBOOKS. . .**

The school handbooks are now located on the school website. If you would like a hard copy you may pick one up in the office.

**SNACK INFORMATION. . .**

![MCj04079480000[1]]()

Our class has early lunch time this year, so a snack during the afternoon will be very important for your child. Each child is responsible for bringing in a snack if desired. We have snack and story daily.

Please send a **nutritious snack** with your child each day. I would like to strongly encourage HEALTHY eating habits for snack time. To encourage healthy eating habits, please do not send cookies or other sweets for snack time. The kids will not be allowed to eat sugary sweet during this time because it defeats the purpose of the snack time! Instead, please try to send healthy snacks, such as fruits, veggies, crackers, cheese, pretzels, granola bars, fruit snacks, yogurt, etc. We will save those yummy sweet treats for birthdays and holiday celebrations!!! If your child has a food allergy, please let me know.

**ALLERGIES. . .**

Please let me know right away if you child has any allergies.

**WATER BOTTLES. . .**

There is a drinking fountain in our classroom, but a water bottle can alleviate lines and potential problems—especially in the heat when everyone is thirsty! I recommend that you send a water bottle **THAT IS ALREADY FILLED** each day with your child if possible.

**BIRTHDAYS. . .**

![MCj04298430000[1]]()If you would like to send in a treat in honor of your child’s birthday, that would be great! Please keep in mind to send napkins, plates, etc. if your treat needs it—I do have some supplies in my room, but would hate to run out on a birthday day. If we do have a student in our room that has any allergies I will let you know—so please keep this in mind when thinking of birthday treats.

Also… if you are having a special birthday party for your child at home and not everyone from the class is invited, please send the invitations through the mail. You will save MANY hurt feelings as well as conversations that will take away from class time. I will be happy to help you obtain addresses if needed.

**SPECIALS TIMES. . .**

![MCj00830930000[1]]()Our class will be attending specials on a daily basis, including: music, art, library, Spanish, technology, and physical education. Please remember to wear proper “tennis shoes” on physical education days.

**Camper of the Week**

Each week a student will be selected as the “Camper of the Week”. Before it is your child’s week I will send home a packet of activities for you to help your child prepare to help us get to know him/her. Each day will have something special for your child to share with the class.

**LITERACY PROGRAM**

**Daily Five** ![MC900056680[1]]()

* **Read to self**
* **Read to someone**
* **Work on writing**
* **Work on words**
* **Listen to reading**

**PARENT HELPERS. . .**

I really **enjoy** having **volunteers** work in our classroom throughout the year. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter for a variety of activities that I can use volunteers for. Please take a minute to write your name under the area that interests you. Also, let me know if you’d rather work with the kids, or do projects for me. Either is a huge help and would be greatly appreciated!!!

**FIELD TRIPS AND I-CHAT. . .**

Last year, Otsego first graders went on a field trip to Binder Park Zoo in the spring. I will pass this information on to you as soon as I have it so that you can plan time off work if you’d like to chaperone!

Otsego schools have implemented I-Chat, which requires all parent volunteers to have a criminal background check. If you were already checked last year, it will be good for two years. If you have not had a background check yet and would like to volunteer or chaperone a field trip, this documentation and background check must be completed and cleared prior to volunteering. Please let me know if you need a form and I would be happy to send one home with your child. Thank you for your understanding in our effort to make our school as safe as possible.

**OPEN HOUSE…**

![MPj04385130000[1]]()

Please join Dix St. Elementary for an **Open House** on Wednesday, September 19, from 6:00pm – 8pm. There is not a formal schedule that evening, so please plan on stopping in and seeing what you child has been doing in his/her first weeks of school. I will send home a reminder, but I wanted you to be able to MARK YOUR CALENDARS ASAP! ☺

**IMPORTANT DATES…**

**Here is a list of important dates: Some of the dates were wrong that I handed out at orientation This should be the updated corrected list. ☺**

* **Tuesday, September 4 - First Day of School**
* **Wednesday, September 19 - OPEN HOUSE 6:00pm – 8:00 pm**
* **Tuesday, September 11 - Picture Day**
* **Friday, September 14th - Submit Free and Reduced Lunch Forms by this day**
* **Tuesday, October 2nd – Fun Run!**
* **Wednesday, November 7– ½ day Students, ½ day conf. , evening PT Conferences**
* **Thursday, November 8 – ½ day students , evening conferences**
* **Tuesday, November 20th – ½ day of school**
* **Wednesday, November 21 – Monday, November 26 – No School, Thanksgiving Break**
* **Monday, December 24th – No School, 1st Day of Christmas Break**

![C:\Documents and Settings\nknight-lucas\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\PU4IQL5M\MC900434383[1].wmf]()**PHONE EXTENTIONS…**

Mark VanderKlok (teacher) – ext. 6363

Mark Rollandini (Principal) - ext. 6098

Renee Vaughn (Building Secretary) - ext. 6083

Sally LaRoy (Student Service Sec.) – ext. 6300

Angela Bender (Counselor) – ext. 6303

**Mark VanderKlok**

mvanderklok@otsegops.org

**School: 269-692-6099 – Extension 6363**

**(Dial the extension to bypass the answering machine)**

**Home/Cell: 269-501-2141**

**Website Coming Soon!!!**

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![MCj04382030000[1]]()

Give me a child

who is ready to learn….

I’ll give you a shining star

in return!