



# DANBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

As the first week of school is behind us we are now falling into a routine. Routines are important for children because routines give them a sense of security and help them develop self-discipline. Children, like adults, handle change best if it is expected and occurs in the context of a familiar routine. A predictable routine allows children to feel safe, and to develop a sense of mastery in handling their lives. As this sense of mastery is strengthened, they can tackle larger changes: getting ready for school by themselves, paying for a purchase at the store, or going to a sleep over. *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey is one of my favorite books as a major principle in the book focuses on how to build a strong routine. Covey suggests that **EVERYDAY** when you plan your "To Do List" write down **EVERYTHING**, it doesn't matter how small: take the trash out, buy milk, etc. The idea behind this is, the more you empty your brain of tasks you need to accomplish, the more you will focus on real issues that will make you more effective and in turn complete these tasks within a routine. Try it!

## **Changes for 2013-2014 School Year:**

In our May 2013 newsletter I added the following two sections (Standards Based Report Cards and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Departmentalizing) to communicate the various changes for this school year. Again is a recap of these changes and how they affect you and your child.

## **Standards Based Report Cards:**

The last two school years our K-1 students have been assessed through standards based measurements and are in turn documented using a standards based format. This year we are extending this format up to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. K-4 will use a similar method to report detailed information on the specific areas in which your child is succeeding or needing additional support. On **September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00-7:00 P.M. in the Auditorium** I will provide you with an example copy of your child's standardized based report card. I will talk about why we made these changes and what to look for on each grade card. At this meeting I will also provide you with your Progressbook login and password to view your child's grades. Last year's login and passwords are no longer working. September 18<sup>th</sup> will be the first opportunity to go online with new codes for elementary students.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Departmentalizing:**

In order to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Guarantee requirements that became law in the summer of 2012 I have made plans to departmentalize our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. This team of teachers will take on a grade level Math and a subject to teach to both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. This is a chance for the students to see four teachers in their day and learn from their expertise on a concentrated subject area. I am very excited for our kids to move throughout the day, experience four great teachers, and ultimately learn new material effectively.

In Service of Youth,

*Daniel E. Humphrey, Jr.*

### **Health Screenings:**

Health Screenings will begin this fall, please **contact the school by September 6<sup>th</sup> if you do not want your child to participate.** Vision and hearing will be tested in preschool, kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 3rd grade, or if you are new to our district. You will receive a confidential referral letter in the mail if your child was unable to pass the vision or hearing tests. Height and weight will be measured privately in grades K-5 and results will be kept confidential.

### **P.R.I.D.E.**

Our next P.R.I.D.E. meeting will be Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. in the Auditorium. At this meeting we will pass out Progressbook passwords, discuss the new Standardized Based Report Cards, and recap our opening tailgate social. Please join us and participate in your child's educational experience at Danbury Elementary.

### **Physical Education:**

Students are required to wear tennis or running shoes to physical education class. Shoes may be worn to school or may be brought to school on days when physical education is scheduled. Crocks are not acceptable. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school in comfortable clothes that meet the dress code and that are loose fitting and non-restrictive. This practice will allow for maximum participation for all students. If you feel your child's physical activities need to be limited, please send a dated and signed note. A doctors excuse is required if a child is to miss more than two consecutive classes. Please understand that I am required to abide by the doctors' orders and if there is a change, I need to have it in writing from the doctor. If your child has any physical condition or disability, which might affect their ability to participate in Physical Education, send a note. As your child's physical education teacher, I share your concern that your child continually grows in all areas: Academically, Socially, and Physically. These are all areas that are emphasized in our physical education curriculum. If you have any questions about our physical education department, please feel free to contact me during school hours (798-4081) or e-mail me at [saubern@danbury.k12.oh.us](mailto:saubern@danbury.k12.oh.us).

Sincerely,  
Coach Sauber

### **Physical Education and Progress Book:**

Coach Sauber would like to encourage all parents to check their sons or daughters progress in physical education. Parents of students in grades K-4 have access to their child's physical education grade as well as comments from the Coach Sauber. A home page with class information can also be accessed using the students account. Simply Click on the **Information** tab and scroll down to **PHYS ED** and click. Students receive a grade and comments each day they have class. Please utilize progress book on a regular basis. It is a great window into the physical education classroom and it is the most efficient way to communicate to all my parents on a bi-weekly basis.

### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:**

Monday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	NO SCHOOL –Labor Day
Tuesday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Preschool Orientation Night 7:00 P.M. -Auditorium
Wednesday, September 18 <sup>th</sup>	P.R.I.D.E. 6:00 P.M. –Auditorium PTCO 7:00 P.M. –Cafeteria
Friday, September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Homecoming: Pep Rally 2:15 P.M. –Gym and Football Game 7:00 P.M.