

Defer Dragon's Burning News

September 5, 2013

Defer Behavior Pledge

Today, I will DO my best to BE my best.

I will be respectful.

I will practice responsibility.

I will always be safe.

I will show my Dragon pride.



Defer Elementary School
15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Phone: 313/432-4000
Fax: 313/432-4002
www.gpschools.org/defer



GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Karen Sullivan
Defer Principal

I'm pleased to welcome you to George Defer Elementary School and to the 2013 – 2014 school year! Defer is an outstanding school with enthusiastic and dedicated teachers and staff, parents whom are supportive and involved, and students who are respectful, responsible, hard working, and involved in their school.

I know I speak for our entire staff when I say that we are here for your child/children, and we strive to ensure the best possible education for them. In order for us to achieve this, we must take a collaborative approach, working together as school professionals, parents, students, community members, and business partners.

I encourage ongoing, consistent communication between school and home. We send school newsletters home every second Thursday of the month and we keep our school website updated with important information to be helpful to you. Many teachers also send home class newsletters.

This is an exciting year that promises to bring positive and productive changes at many levels. A key focus will be the new Reading and Writing Workshop units being implemented at all grade levels. We have a wonderful school year planned for our students, full of fun, enriching, engaging lessons and activities, as well as many PTO events.

Please be assured that I am approachable and work hard to establish collaborative relationships with my parents, teachers, and students. I maintain an open door policy and am here to help and support you however I can, always. Here's to a great school year!

The first step in our collaborative approach linking home and school is our Back-to-School Night. Mark your calendars for this very important event. It is our goal that every family attend this important kick-off to the school year. Back-to-School Night is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn about the curriculum being focused on that school year, and build relationships with other parents. This year's Back-to-School Night is Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm. Please join us in the gym for opening remarks and the introduction of the staff. This will be followed by classroom visits and staff presentations. We look forward to meeting you and forging an important partnership between school and home. And most importantly, your child thanks you for attending! You are sending them a powerful message about the importance of education and your willingness to support them in their learning.

Again, here's to a great school year!!!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



Be sure to join us for
Back-to-School Night on
Tuesday, September 10th
at 6:30 pm.

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day will be on
Wednesday, September 11th.
Watch for further information!



Music News



The first choir rehearsal will begin on Tuesday, October 1st at 7:40am in the music room #111. It is open to all 4th and 5th grade students at Defer. Choir permission slips will be going home the second week of September. Come one...come all! Let's make some music!

Bell Schedule 2013-2014

Monday Bell Schedule

9:05 AM	AM Entry Bell
9:10 AM	AM Instruction begins (tardy bell)
11:56 AM	Lunch Bell
12:44 PM	PM Entry Bell
3:38 PM	Dismissal Bell

Tuesday—Friday Bell Schedule

8:20 AM	AM Entry Bell
8:25 AM	AM Instruction begins (Tardy Bell)
11:36 AM	Lunch Bell
12:24 PM	PM Entry Bell
3:38 PM	Dismissal Bell

Attendance Line 432-4001

If your child will be absent from or late arriving to school, please call the Attendance Line (432-4001) by 9:00 a.m. It is available 24 hours per day for your convenience. If your child arrives after 9:05 am (M) or 8:25 am (T-F), they must sign in tardy in the office.

Please note that if your child misses one or more hours from either the AM or PM, they are considered absent for that portion of the day.

Student Pick-Up During School Hours

To ensure a safe, authorized pickup of children during the school day, please come to the office to sign out your child if you need to take him/her out during the school day. The office will contact your child's teachers and your child will be sent to the office to meet you. It is helpful if the parent writes a note to the teacher indicating what time the child will be picked up that day. Parents should not go directly to the classroom to release a child. Students **MUST** be picked up in the office. Unless we have been contacted by note or telephone, a child will only be released to the people listed on his/her emergency form.

Defer School Visitor Policy

It is important to Defer School that we provide a safe environment for our children; however, we would like to retain a warm, inviting atmosphere for our parents. We want to encourage parents to volunteer in our school, while at the same time, keeping track of all visitors to our building. To meet both objectives, we have formulated a visitor policy. Please help us by following these guidelines:

- ◆ All doors are locked between 9:10am to 3:38pm on Mondays and 8:30am to 3:38pm Tuesday thru Friday. Please use the buzzer system at the back and receiving room doors to enter the building.
- ◆ All visitors to the school must check in to the office. This includes parent volunteers, contractors, and other service personnel. At the office, the visitor will sign the log and receive a "Visitor" sticker to wear.
- ◆ Please do not be offended if school staff ask to see your visitor sticker, this is for your child's safety.
- ◆ If you need to deliver items to your child, such as lunches, homework, musical instruments, etc., please deliver to the office. We want to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum. All messages will be delivered at 11:40 or 3:20 on Mondays and 11:20 or 3:20 Tuesday thru Friday.
- ◆ When your child has an early dismissal, please come directly to the office to sign them out. We will call your child to come down to the office. Teachers have been instructed not to release children directly from the classroom, but to wait for a call from the office.

Breakfast Club

Defer is offering breakfast every morning from 7:50 am — 8:15 am for all interested students. The payment system is the same as it is for lunch. There are two choices each day, cereal or snack bar with milk, juice and fruit.



Lunch



- ◆ Cost of lunch is \$2.75. Milk is \$.50
- ◆ If your child forgets a lunch, we will try to contact you by phone. If you cannot be reached to bring the lunch or the money to purchase a hot lunch, he/she will be allowed to borrow on their account.
- ◆ Any child with a negative balance of \$5.00 or more will be given an alternative meal until payment has been received. Alternative meal will consist of cereal, milk, veggie and fruit. The cost is \$1.75, charged to the child's account.
- ◆ Snacks cannot be charged. A child can purchase a snack if there is money on the account or cash at the point of purchase. There will be a "2 snack limit" strictly enforced.
- ◆ Applications for free and reduced lunches are available in the office. Please fill out and return the form to the school office if you think you qualify for this program. If you have any questions regarding your child's lunch account, please call 432-3852

**Welcome New Students
2013-2014 School Year**

Kindergarten

Hayden B., Kasidee B., Benjamin C., Lauren C., Neva C., Eric D., Kevin G., Alexis H., Gurali H., Elaina K., Stella L., Korall L., Brandon M., Harmon M., Myles M., Landon W., Jacob N., Nicholas O., William S., Johnny S., Mark S., Brendan S., Duncan S., Camille T., Caroline W., Aidan W.

First Grade

LeAnne H., Sophia S., Dana S., Johah T.

Second Grade

Hanley D., Benjamin F., Finn H., Michelle J., Everett K., Jacob K., Madeline K., Isabella L., James N., Kaden O., Kaleb O., Logen W.

Third Grade

Christopher A., Sammy R., Kaden W.

Fourth Grade

Adam C., George K., Alexander P.

Fifth Grade

Hannah L.



**Defer Faculty and Staff
2013—2014 School Year**

Principal	Karen Sullivan
ADK	Nicole Humphrey
Grade 1	Jennifer Richards
Grade 2	Eleanor Caroselli
Grade 3	Janette High
2/3 Magnet	Jacqueline Burrell
Grade 4	Cheryl Lapensee
Grade 5	Michelle Denison
(AM)	Nancy Eckert
4/5 Magnet	Nora Hard
Categorical Class	Christine Bergeron
Classroom Assistant	Trisha Gout
Vocal Music	Jane Nugent
Art	Heather Halpin
Physical Education	Carol Cross (PM)
Instrumental	Cathy Mestdagh
Speech	Jason Senska
Library	Kari Mannino
Library Assistant	Brad Altenbernt
ERC	Keith O'Hara
Social Worker	Liz Moses
Psychologist	Stefani Makowski
Title 1	Marc Ciaravino
Title 1 Assistant	Deb Raab
Title 1 Assistant	Jim Cadotte
Reading Specialist	Paul Miller
Secretaries	Dan White
Computer Lab Asst.	Anna Boes
Classroom Assistant	Cheryl Quinlan
Head Engineer	Darby Paddock
PM Custodian	Donna Ventimiglia
	Anne Bethell
	Tina Justice
	Molly Crawford
	Karen Labarge
	Stefan Harris
	Sheila Russo
	Suellen Lohr
	Ann Lightbody
	Anna Raese
	Linda Lynch
	Robin Howe
	Alan Letkowski
	Rodney Goin

Destination Imagination News

"Destination Imagination is a non-profit, volunteer-led, cause-driven organization. Our cause-driven purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders." -- Mission statement from www.destinationimagination.org

Defer will have a third grade Destination Imagination team this school year. Interested families may contact Courtney Bocci at courtcat@gmail.com, as well as parents who are interested in running a team for another grade. Outside adults who are interested in volunteering with the program are also welcome. There is a longstanding history of excellence from the Grosse Pointe Public Schools in this endeavor - last year many of our teams went to the state level competition and beyond.

These teams become tight, and learn to work together creatively. The focus is academic and there is competition involved. For more information, please see the website above, www.micreativity.org, and/or speak with Courtney or one of the team members. It's a thing about which all of us are passionate.

Academic Support Information

In addition to classroom instruction, there are two general education areas of instructional support available to students at Defer:

Reading Club – Reading Club is a district-wide reading support program. Students are identified for this form of support using a testing instrument called Fountas and Pinnell. New students and students referred by teachers are tested to determine their reading level and daily instruction is provided for those students reading below grade level.

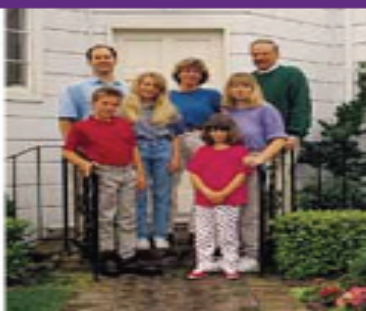
Title 1 – Title 1 is a Federally funded program for schools that have a population greater than 14% of whom are receiving Free or Reduced Lunch. A number of factors are used to identify students eligible for this service including: NWEA scores, MEAP, Grosse Pointe Writing, and teacher/parent recommendation. A student can qualify for this assistance in math, reading, or both.

Parents of students qualifying for these programs will receive notification and a parent meeting will be scheduled soon.

Traffic Reminders

The Defer parking lot is not to be used for morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up of students. Please respect this rule for the safety of all of our students.

The left-lane on Nottingham between Vernor and Kercheval is a drop-off/pick-up lane. It is not meant for parking. If your intention is to drop-off your child in the morning or pick them up at the end of the day, use this lane. It is not used for parking and coming onto the school grounds. If you wish to do that, please park on the right hand side of Nottingham in the areas where parking is allowed.



The Family Center is the go-to resource for parents, caregivers and professionals who want to better navigate the challenges of raising children in today's busy world.

Fall 2013 Calendar of Programs and Free Presentations:

October 2- May 30, 9-11am and 12:30-2:30pm Wednesdays & Thursdays
at Barnes Early Childhood Center, 20090 Morningside, GPW, \$5 per family

PLAY CENTRAL

Play Central is a place for parents, grandparents and all caregivers to play with their children while socializing with others.

October 10, 7pm at Assumption Cultural Center, 21180 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores, FREE:

Ask The Experts Talks: MANAGING LIFE'S LAUNCHES "Cradle to College"

This series of three short (20-minute-long) talks offer ways for everyone to grow in the ability to meet life's challenges. Plus: a "coffee & conversation" session following the *Ask the Experts* Talks.

- Modeling Adulthood: Powerful Methods to Lead By Example

with Jeff Jay, Clinical Interventionist

- Making the Most of Technology in Your Family

with Sean Hogan-Downey, LMSW

- Mindfulness Meditation as a Method for Managing Stress

with Maureen McKinley Light, LMSW

October 15, 7pm at Brownell Middle School (Library), 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe, FREE:

FINDING NORMAL IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

with Dr. Michael Dib, GPPSS & Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW

Hormones, peer pressure and all the other reasons you no longer recognize the person living in your child's bedroom. Explore why our middle schoolers seem like strangers - and how we can stay connected to and communicate effectively with our teens.

October 22, 9-11am at Assumption Cultural Center, 21180 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores, FREE:

MEET & GREET FOR PROFESSIONALS

A gathering for school, mental health and other professionals working with youth and families.



More seminars and events ➔

**Enriching Our Community
Through Stronger Families**

More info and register online:

www.familycenterweb.org

313.432.3832

20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods

