

2019  
SEPTEMBER  
FERRY  
NEWSLETTER



## BE A LEADER DURING SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

The purpose of the school drop-off/pick-up lane on Roslyn and in the parking lot is to provide parents an efficient means of getting their child(ren) safely to and from school without parking their vehicle. If you choose to utilize the school drop-off/pick-up lanes, you are agreeing to adhere to the rules outlined in this document. Just as we instill in our students the seven habits of *Leader in Me*, we ask our parents to be mindful as well.

### HABIT 1: BE PROACTIVE

**Practice at home with your child how to buckle and unbuckle their seatbelt, operate the car door and to identify your vehicle from the side. These simple steps will save time in line.**

### HABIT 2: BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

Focus on the safety of all our students and maintaining a one-way flow of traffic to ensure all parents can pick-up their child(ren) efficiently.

### HABIT 3: PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

Please refrain from using your cell phone in the drop-off/pick-up lane to focus on your surroundings and the safety of our students.

### HABIT 4: THINK WIN-WIN

Vehicles that cut in, turnaround in driveways or double park cause other vehicles to weave in and out creating an unsafe environment for our students and disrupting the flow of traffic. By entering and exiting the drop-off/pick-up lanes from a consistent point, the overall process is more efficient and safe for all.

### HABIT 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN BE UNDERSTOOD

Be aware of your surroundings and have patience. In the parking lot, parents of students with physical disabilities are permitted to pull to the front of the line behind the buses. If there is no space, however, we ask these parents to use the handicap parking spots instead of creating a second lane.

### HABIT 6: SYNERGIZE

Crossing guards, parents, teachers and staff are all working toward the same goal of getting EVERY student to school on-time and safely.

### HABIT 7: SHARPEN THE SAW

Drop-off and pick-up should not be a stressful experience for parents or students. Reviewing these procedures periodically will ensure our process remains efficient and our students stay safe.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### THE 8:20 BELL HAS RUNG, WHERE DOES MY CHILD ENTER?

There are two morning bells, 8:20 and 8:25. Students are to enter their assigned door unless the 8:25 bell has rung. At that time, students must enter the doors by the bike rack as all other doors will be locked.

### I AM LATE PICKING UP AND DO NOT SEE MY CHILD?

If you are late picking up and do not see your child(ren) outside, we have walked them to the office to wait. We don't want to leave any children unattended. Please find a parking spot and use the doors near the bike rack to enter the school and pick them up.

### CAN I STOP AND STAND IN A "NO PARKING" ZONE?

You may stop and stand in "No Parking" zones ONLY when dropping off or picking-up your child. If you leave your vehicle, you are "parked" and subject to ticketing. Please continue to pull as far forward as possible in the cutout area, regardless of which door your child will enter or exit. Fire routes or yellow-marked curbs in front of fire hydrants are NOT to be used for stopping, standing or parking at any time. Officers patrol the area in marked and unmarked police vehicles, recording license plates of violators and mailing tickets to registered owners. (This method avoids creating more congestion by detaining violators to issue citations personally.)

### WHERE ARE RECOMMENDED PARKING ZONES FOR PICKING UP OR DROPPING OFF MY CHILD(REN)?

We encourage you to drop-off and pick-up your child in areas other than the heavily congested vicinity of the school. Roslyn west of Wedgewood or Hampton are safe alternatives. The crossing guards at Wedgewood/Roslyn or Morningside/Roslyn will safely cross your child.

### WHERE ARE BICYCLES PERMITTED?

Ferry Elementary encourages students to bike to school and offers plenty of rack space to secure bikes during the day. Please bring your own lock. Walk your bike on school property and cross the street with the crossing guard. Once you are across the street, you may ride your bike where foot traffic is not so heavy.

# OCTOBER CALENDAR

October 1, 8, 15, 2 & 29	Mini Picassos Art Room	3:35 PM
	Boy Scouts Troop 34	7:30 PM
October 2	Evacuation Drill	9:30 AM
October 3, 17 & 24	Cub Scouts Pack 34	6:30 PM
October 3, 17, 24 & 31	TGA Golf	3:45 PM
October 4	Ferry Fun Run	
October 4, 16, 22, 28	Choir Rehearsal	11:30 AM
October 8 & 29	Student Lighthouse	11:30 AM
October 8 & 29		
October 9 & 10	Book Fair	
October 9	ES Evening Conferences PTO Meeting	7:00 PM
October 10	1/2 Day AM - Afternoon & Evening Conferences	
October 13	Haunted Garage	
October 15	Lockdown Drill	9:00 AM
October 20	GPPS Open House	
October 22	Mix It Up Lunch	11:30 AM
October 28	Ellis Island Simulation	8:30 AM
October 30	Special Education Consult Meetings	12:30 PM
October 31	To Be a Leader - Assembly	9:30 AM
	ES/MS 1/2 Day AM - Professional Development PM	



September 2019

**CLEVER**

For the 2019-2020 school year, you will find that GPPSS will continue utilizing CLEVER more than ever before! At the elementary level, the following digital content will be available through CLEVER:

- Amplify
- Freckle
- Imagine Math
- Lexia
- Rax Kids

You can access Clever by going to your elementary school's webpage and finding the link on the right-hand side under "Student Short Cuts"

**Everyday Math** will still require the same login as the previous school year.



**Reporting Absences**

Please report all student absences to the office by 8:45 AM. The attendance line, 313-432-4101, is available 24 hours a day.



# Elementary Bell Schedule for 2019-2020

## PLC Monday

9:05 a.m.	Entry Bell
9:10 a.m.	AM Instruction Begins
11:56 a.m.	Lunch Bell
12:44 p.m.	Lunch Dismissal Bell
12:46 p.m.	PM Instruction Begins
3:38 p.m.	Dismissal Bell

## Tuesday - Friday

8:20 a.m.	Entry Bell
8:25 a.m.	AM Instruction Begins
11:36 a.m.	Lunch Bell
12:24 p.m.	Lunch Dismissal Bell
12:26 p.m.	PM Instruction Begins
3:38 p.m.	Dismissal Bell

## PLC Mondays

September	10, 17, 24
October	1,8,15,22,29
November	5,12,19,26
December	3,10,17
January	7,14,21,28
February	4,11,25
March	4,11,18,25
April	1,8,15,22,29
May	6,13,20
June	3,10

## Service Safety Hours

Mondays  
8:50 - 9:05 am (tardy @ 9:10 am) Mornings  
3:35 - 3:50 p. (leave class at 3:30 pm)  
Dismissal

### Tuesday - Friday

8:10-8:20 am (tardy @ 8:25 am) Mornings  
3:35 - 3:50 pm (leave class @ 3:30 pm)  
Dismissal

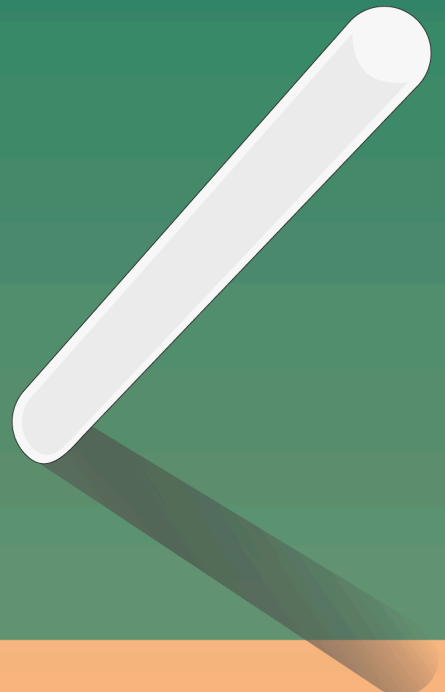
## Morning Announcements

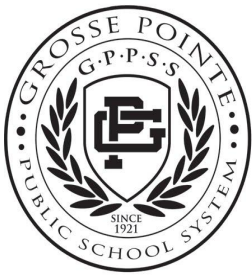
Monday 9:15 am

Tuesday - Friday 8:30 am

## AM ½ Day Bell Schedule

8:20 am Entry Bell  
8:25 am AM Instruction Begins  
11:36 am Dismissal Bell





**Department of Curriculum,  
Instruction and Assessment**

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**Keith Howell**

Director of PreK-Elementary Instruction

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

As you know, reading is the foundation for success in school and it is essential for all subjects. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Reading Law to ensure that students exit third grade reading at or above grade level. The law states that beginning with the 2019-20 school year, third-graders could be retained if they demonstrate reading proficiency levels that are more than one grade level behind. Schools are required to assess the reading skills of all K-3 students at least three times per year in an effort to identify struggling students. Students demonstrating deficiencies are required to have an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (I-RIP) created in partnership with their teacher, principal, and parents. With the exception of the retention language, this law is consistent with Grosse Pointe Public School System's historical approach and dedication to a multi-tiered system of support for our students.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System monitors student progress with Fall/Winter/Spring NWEA testing while using Fountas & Pinnell (Benchmark Reading Assessment) and other classroom assessments to determine a differentiated reading approach for students. Classroom teachers provide Tier II interventions while our trained Literacy Coaches provide Tier III small group instruction for those who qualify. During fall conferences, parents will receive additional information about the available supports and/or services that their child is receiving if they qualify for an I-RIP. At that time parents will receive the I-RIP, identifying the interventions that are already in place, along with any additional strategies to support their child at home. This plan will continue to be updated throughout the school year and revised at parent/teacher conferences. The new legislation will add to the already existing support our children are accustomed to receiving.

A team of educators and administrators continue to collaborate to update our already successful local plan to be consistent with the requirements identified in the Third Grade Reading Law. The district will continue to comply with the mandated testing, keeping our instructional focus on what is best and developmentally appropriate for our students. Family involvement and understanding is a critical part of this effort.

Additional information regarding the legislation is available on [our website under the parent tab](#) and by visiting this [Third Grade Reading Facts for Families](#) link. We appreciate your ongoing support as partners in education. The most important thing you can do is to set aside time each day to read together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Howell'.

Keith Howell

## Facts for Families: What is the Read by Grade Three Law?

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. These *Facts for Families* help families understand the Read by Grade Three Law so they can support their child.



### **How is my child identified as having a reading concern?**

Assessments are given to all children who are in Kindergarten through Third grade **within 30 days of the first day of school**. An Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) will be written for all learners who have been identified through these assessments as having a reading concern.

### **When is an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) developed?**

An IRIP is developed following identification of a reading concern **within 30 days** of the screening assessment. The IRIP is developed with the help of teachers, the principal, parent or legal guardian, and anyone else that the team agrees needs to be involved. Your child will remain on an IRIP as long as there is a reading concern. Your child will be assessed several times through the year to check on their progress. IRIPs should be updated to reflect the needs of your child.

### **What is the "Read at Home" plan?**

A "Read at Home" plan is developed between the school and family to develop efforts you will take to support your child at home. Resources and activities are provided to families.

### **What if my child's reading does not improve?**

Your child will take the M-STEP in the spring of their third-grade year. The M-STEP is the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress. The M-STEP measures what your child should be able to know and do. If your child scores one or more grade level behind the third-grade reading level, then a notification will be generated for you and your child's school that your child **may** be retained.



## Facts for Families: What is the Read by Grade Three Law?

### **When do I get notification that my child may be retained?**

If your child's reading score on the English Language Arts M-STEP is more than one year below grade level, you and your child's school will be notified by **June 1** of that school year.

### **When do I need to talk to the school if I don't agree with the decision to retain my child?**

If you do not agree with the decision, you should request a meeting with your child's school and file a **Good Cause Exemption within 30 days** of receiving a notice regarding potential retention. Your child's school must make themselves available to discuss your child's progress.

### **When will I find out if my child is being retained after I ask for a Good Cause Exemption?**

Your child's school needs to have a decision on retaining your child **30 days before the first day of school**. This decision is made by the school principal and/or superintendent and is a final decision.

### **What support will my child get if they are retained in 3rd Grade?**

The school will provide a reading program that is designed to improve your child's specific reading concern. This program includes teaching strategies to help your child be a successful reader. Your child may also be assigned to a highly effective teacher of reading, a reading specialist, an evidence-based reading program, daily small group instruction, ongoing assessments, or specialized reading help.



# Ferry PTO 2019-2020 Calendar

## PTO Meeting Schedule

Each meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Library (2nd Floor)

\*September 18th

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th

January- Parents Night Out- TBD

February 12th

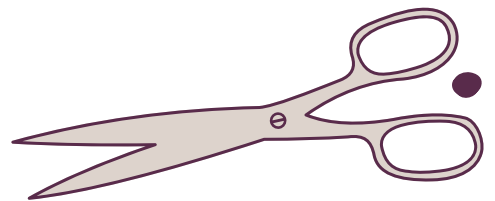
March 11th

\*April 15th

May 13th

June- TBD

\*Denotes deviation from standard 2nd Wednesday of the month.



DATE	EVENT	EVENT CHAIR
October 4th	Fun Run	Andrea Pietrowski/Lauren Samyn
October 4th	Glow Dance	Andrea Pietrowski/Lauren Samyn
October 9th and 10th	Fall Book Fair	Beth Cueter
October 11th	Parents Night Out	Randie Kohler
October 12th	Beautification Day	Donielle Hudson
October 13th	Haunted Garage	Mrs. Brumme
November 8th	Superboys and Leading Ladies Dodgeball	Emily Rubio
December - TBD	Santa Event	Courtney Arioli
January - TBD	Parents Night Out (Adults only)	Randie Kohler
January/February - TBD	Lunchtime Enrichment	Beth Cueter
March 18th and 19th	Spring Book Fair	Beth Cueter
March 27th	Family Fun Night	Tourquoise Cannon
April 17th	Girls VIP Dance	Melissa Aslam/Mrs. Hard
April 24th	Superboys and Leading Ladies Kickball	Emily Rubio
April 25th	Beautification Day	Donielle Hudson
May 4-8th	Teacher Appreciation Week	Judy Vadio
May 11th-15th	Ride your bike to school week	Becky and Peter Gast
TBD	Volunteer Appreciation Day	Lighthouse Team
June 5th	Ice Cream Social	Megan Wood



# Back to School Bundle

Use the *Leader in Me*® Framework as a guide for kicking off the school year with these tips and resources!

## LEADERSHIP



Reconnect with the 7 Habits®.

Read *Keeping the 7 Habits Real* and use the 7 Habits Profile as a self-assessment.

## CULTURE



Set up the classroom.

Keep these [best practice “look fors”](#) in mind as you design the classroom.

## ACADEMICS



Set a personal goal.

Set and post a [personal WIG](#)® to share with students.



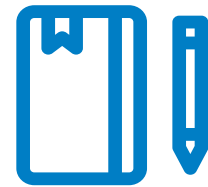
Make a yearlong plan.

Prioritize the [First 8 Days](#) and [mission statements](#) early and then tap into the [Student Leadership Guides](#), as well as [these lessons](#) throughout the year.



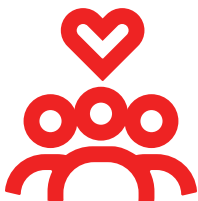
Review leadership opportunities.

Designate a space for [classroom leadership roles](#). Use these resources to get started.



Build Leadership Notebooks systems.

Identify tabs, templates, and routines. Make a plan for [launching Leadership Notebooks](#)® with students.



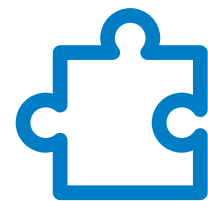
Engage families.

Use these back to school [family engagement tips](#) and resources to establish strong relationships with parents.



Think about the whole child.

Create a supportive emotional environment with a system for [Emotional Bank Accounts](#).



Invite students to lead learning.

Maximize student empowerment with the [Empowered-Learning Approach lesson plan template](#).

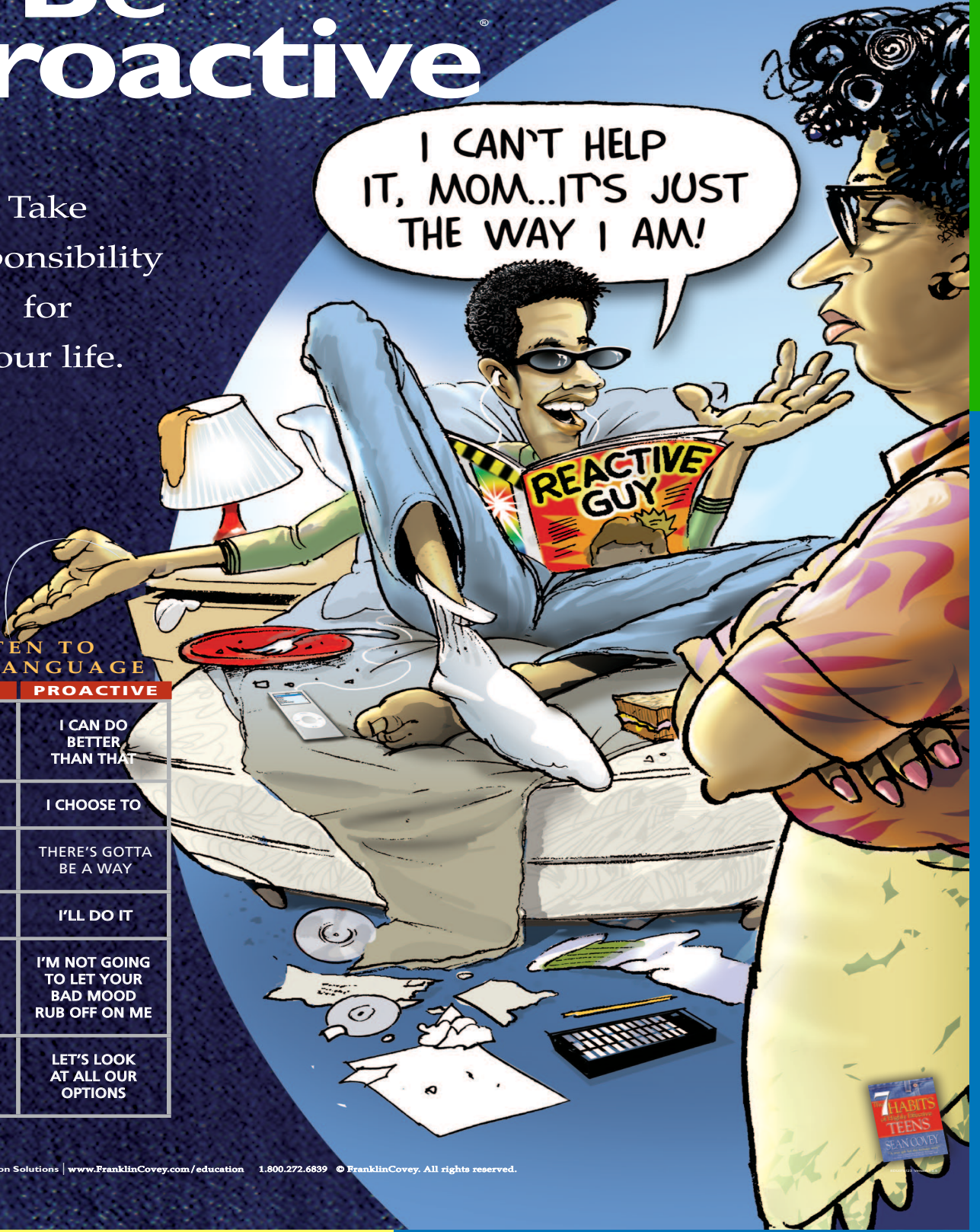
HABIT



# Be Proactive

Take  
 responsibility  
 for  
 your life.

I CAN'T HELP  
 IT, MOM...IT'S JUST  
 THE WAY I AM!



LISTEN TO  
 YOUR LANGUAGE

REACTIVE	PROACTIVE
THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM	I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT
I HAVE TO	I CHOOSE TO
I CAN'T	THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY
I'LL TRY	I'LL DO IT
YOU RUINED MY DAY	I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOUR BAD MOOD RUB OFF ON ME
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO	LET'S LOOK AT ALL OUR OPTIONS



# FERRY CHOIR

## Ferry Choir Schedule 2019-2020

### Meets "D" days at lunchtime recess

- 9/24 Tuesday
- 9/30 Monday
- 10/4 Friday
- 10/10 Thursday-no choir-½ day
- 10/16 Wednesday
- 10/22 Tuesday
- 10/28 Monday
- 11/1 Friday
- 11/8 Friday
- 11/14 Thursday
- 11/20 Wednesday
- 11/26 Tuesday-no choir-½ day
- 12/5 Thursday
- 12/10 Tuesday-Concert Practice at North!!! (12:30-3:15p.m.)  
WALK to North High School (dress for the weather!)



**CONCERT** Tuesday, December 10th, 7:00p.m. Choir Members report to North H.S. at 6:45p.m.



- 1/31 Friday
- 2/6 Thursday
- 2/12 Wednesday
- 2/25 Tuesday
- 3/6 Friday
- 3/12 Thursday
- 3/18 Wednesday
- 3/24 Tuesday
- 3/30 Monday
- 4/3 Friday
- 4/16 Thursday
- 4/22 Wednesday
- 4/28 Tuesday
- 5/4 Monday
- 5/8 Friday
- 5/14 Thursday
- 5/18 Monday-Concert Practice at North!!! (1:00-3:15p.m.)  
WALK to North High School (dress for the weather!)

**CONCERT** Monday, May 18th, 7:00p.m. Choir Members report to North H.S. at 6:45p.m.

# What Makes Ferry So...

## “Special”

The year is starting off strong in Mrs. DeBow's art classes. Kindergarten has been focusing on projects putting colors in rainbow order. First Grade is working on Henri Matisse inspired art work. Second grade is creating awesome figures based off of artist Keith Haring. Third grade is creating an awesome sun and moon composition using warm and cool colors. Fourth and Fifth grade are working on shading techniques in an optical illusion project and color wheel project respectively.

Lastly, Mrs. DeBow is expecting a baby girl near the end of October and would like to thank you for all of the kind words and well wishes.

As always thank you for all of the Artsonia support, it has been a great year so far.



# Ferry Family Game Night

Coming November 12<sup>th</sup> to the Ferry School Gym

from 6:00-7:00 PM

This Leader in Me Family Event  
is being provided by Learning Gizmos and the Ferry Staff.



Great Educational Games in  
all subject areas and for all  
ages can be played by  
students and their families.

Do some early  
Christmas  
shopping!

Here's how it works:

1. The Ferry School teachers/staff are trained on how to play all the games from 5:00-6:00 PM by the Learning Gizmos staff. Some student leaders will be invited to be trained as Event Greeters and Teacher Assistants at the Game Stations.
2. **THEN, Ferry families are invited to come and play the games with the teachers/staff from 7:00-8:00 PM. You can try out as many games as you like. You do not need to buy any of the games.**
3. However, if you love any of the games, Learning Gizmos will have them available for sale. If our school sells more than \$500 worth of games, Ferry School earns 10% of the amount sold to put toward our Leadership Activities. You can take the games home that night. If a favorite game is sold out, you can order one and have it delivered to Ferry School within 3 days.

**\*There will be no food in the gym during this event, as requested by Learning Gizmos.** This keeps the focus on learning the games and makes sure none of the games are damaged by spills or food stains. Please eat dinner before you come to the event.

**GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC  
SCHOOL SYSTEM**

# **Kids Club**

## **Program**

**Before and  
After School  
Care**

The Grosse Pointe Public School System recognizes the need for school-based child care in our community. Officially titled "School-Age Child Care Program" (but is informally known as Kids Club), is a self-supporting program aimed at providing a supervised and safe environment for children before and after school. Kids Club offers planned, interesting activities that are developmentally appropriate and enhance physical, intellectual, social and emotional growth. Children benefit from the opportunity to be with friends in a supervised program that offers parents a safe, practical solution for childcare needs before and after school.

Kids Club is offered on most 1/2 days during teacher workshop and conference days.

Kids club starts at 7:00 am Monday-Friday at your child's school. Our programs run after school until 6:30 pm.

visit:

[www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) or call

313-432-3009 for more information!





## The Podcast Issue From your Elementary Library Media Specialists!



Podcasts can be a terrific way for adults and kids learn while listening. Most podcasts are free, downloadable and portable. Episodes will can be serialized or stand alone. Subscribe to favorites and the latest episodes will populate your mobile podcast app on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Check out [Common Sense Media](#) for a list of 25 recommended podcasts for kids. The following are selected for elementary students.



This fun and fast-moving spin-off of the popular Brains On! podcast is a family-friendly debate podcast. A kid judge listens to and scores the rousing, fact-based arguments of two contestants. With episodes like "Dragons versus Unicorns" and "Pizza versus Tacos," kids will be hooked, and they won't even notice that they're learning how to defend their ideas along the way. **Best for:** Upper Elementary



With wacky episode titles such as "What if Legos were alive?" and "What if sharks had legs?," this series takes ridiculous "what if" questions submitted by young listeners and turns them into a new story every two weeks. Host Eric O'Keefe uses silly voices and crazy characters to capture the imaginations of young listeners with a Mad Libs-like randomness. **Best for:** All Ages



Thanks to the hosts' soothing voices and a pre-story meditation, your kid might fall asleep to this podcast before the story even gets underway. But if not, the gentle adventures on Ahway Island will also sweep them off to dreamland. This podcast teaches kid-friendly mindfulness practices like "deep dragon breaths" that can be carried into waking life as well. **Best for:** All ages



Kids like to be informed and engaged, but talking to kids about the news can be a challenge. This podcast, created by moms who are broadcast journalists, offers young listeners five minutes of kid-friendly news (followed by a quick quiz) each day, five days a week. Perfectly timed for waking up, KiDNuz lets you start the day off on a worldly note. **Best for:** All ages



The catchy soundtrack is the star in this delightful podcast from children's music duo Andrew & Polly. But this funny program also covers a range of topics by talking to actual kids as well as experts, providing thoughtful fun for young ones and their grown-ups. **Best for:** Preschoolers and little kids

### Elementary Library Media Specialists

Danielle Gostomski

Amy Hermon

Sherry Martin

Cheryl Quinlan

Rachel Walpole



## Ferry opens doors to new world of learning

By Mary Anne Brush on September 04, 2019

Parents and students arriving for Ferry Elementary School's "World of Welcome" back-to-school event Aug. 29, stepped into a new world when visiting the school's library.

The space, transformed into a 21st-century learning center with new furniture, technology, tools and a dedicated Makerspace, was a school-wide initiative one and a half years in the making, according to media specialist Sherry Martin. Funds raised by the PTO to modernize the space allowed for the purchase of 30 Chromebooks, six iPads, five dry erase tabletops, 50 chairs, six reading stools, a large oval couch and an array of Makerspace kits. "We're the first elementary library to have all of this in the district," Martin said.

Hoping to serve as a model for others, Martin invited Grosse Pointe Public School System elementary principals to the grand opening, which included a ribbon-cutting and tour. Over the summer she began discussions with many of them, sharing pricing and vendors.

"Some of them already got the ball rolling, so that is exciting," she said.

The combination of new furniture and technology allows for flexibility of use the library didn't afford in the past, Martin said. For example, the new tables and chairs replace heavy wooden tables and chairs. In addition to containing dry-erase tops for students to sketch out their ideas, then quickly wipe them clean, the tables are on wheels and can

be flipped and nested for easy storage or moved to create different arrangements of space.

Key to a 21st-century media center, Martin said, are six types of spaces —

community, small group, large group, maker, technology and quiet reading. The media center now has enough chairs to allow for community gatherings and large classroom instruction, while affording flexibility for small or large group learning as well. Stools, tucked away when not in use, create "little pockets for

reading," Martin said. Replacing desktop computers are Chromebooks that can be used in the library or loaned out for classroom use.

"It's like another arm of the library," Martin said.

"It's another part of our collection, just like the Makerspace. We have books you can check out. We have Chromebooks you can check out."

In a back room is the Makerspace complete with a green screen for filming, a Dremel 3D printer and shelves stocked with kits in individual tubs that are barcoded, inventoried and labeled with all contents. Students may check out the kits to "explore, experiment and create," Sherry said.

The only rule — same as in libraries of the past — is that they return them when they're done.



Photos by Mary Anne Brush

Ella Martin films Curtis Martin against the green screen while creating a background on her iPad.



Alana Martin, left, and Reagan Gast program Ozobots using color-coded lines. These tiny toy robots can be programmed on both digital surfaces, such as an iPad, and physical surfaces, such as paper.

## Ford House education team revamps tours

By Mary Anne Brush on August 14, 2019

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford House has offered tours to school children for years, attracting students from Grosse Pointe to Port Huron. This summer, members of the education team sought ideas from area teachers on how to align their programming with state standards and meet the needs, interests and learning styles of all students, while employing new teaching strategies to increase engagement.

On Aug. 5, education team members Sheila Ruen, director of education, Mary Fishwick, docent coordinator, Emily Weiss, environmental education coordinator, and John-Duane Kingsley, education programs coordinator, gathered in the Lake Room in the main house to brainstorm with third-grade teachers.

Serving on the newly formed advisory board were Jane Ellis, Ferry Elementary School in the Grosse Pointe Public School System; Suzanne Tuttle, Chippewa Valley Schools in Clinton Township; Stacey Goldman, Detroit Public School Community District; and Lauren Plotzke, Branch Line, a charter school in Livonia.

“We’ve evolved our school tour and ... we’ve gotten some great feedback that’s really going to help us go forward and do a better job of meeting their needs and standards,” said Ruen at the conclusion of the morning session.

A focus of third-grade social studies is the history of Michigan. Standards include identifying questions historians ask, using primary sources and drawing upon informational text and visual data.

“We’re really working on balancing Michigan history content with the family history and cultural context,” Ruen said.

Kingsley, whose focus as education programs coordinator is on the humanities, said the tours have introduced flatscreen TV panels in the rooms to show photos of different ways the Ford family used each room, from debutante parties to birthday and holiday celebrations.

While the room itself is devoid of decoration, students are asked to compare what is missing in the room to what is in the photo.

“Their tours have evolved quite a bit over the years,” said Ellis, a 30-year teaching veteran. “I’ve been coming for some time now. Teaching has evolved; so have their tours. ... It used to be go to the next room, talk, talk talk. ... (Now they are) getting the children to ask questions about the room. What do you think this room is used for? Getting them to think like a historian. ... Their whole approach is ... more hands-on and more engaging.” Tours lend themselves to “higher-level thinking, open-ended questioning, questioning guided toward creativity and critical thinking and open-ended thinking — trying to make more connections by themselves without being told things,” said Goldman.

For example, among ideas that emerged from the brainstorming session was for the education team to draw from vocabulary words third-grade students learn in class and incorporate them into the tours.

“That’s how you connect learning,” Ruen said.

Part of the social studies standards applies to Michigan’s early history and how American Indians and settlers adapted to, used and modified their environment. Kingsley said use of primary sources that are “site-specific — images of the house, the family, the use of the grounds, images that capture early settlement of Native Americans — ... really helps to put students in the role of junior historians (in) understanding how the family used the site and different settlements used the site and how it changed over time.”

The team is exploring expanding their tours and programs into other areas of the curriculum, such as English and science, Ruen said. Opportunities will be enhanced when the new visitor’s center, under construction, opens in 2020, offering classroom space and hands-on activities related to the tours. “We want to bring more schools from more diverse communities,” said Ruen. “Schools need a rationale for why they’re bringing their students here that has to align with the curriculum standards. We’ve been focusing on social studies standards, but some of the things we’ve done well with schools that have been coming also apply to the English standards. We realized we can maybe diversify our tour offerings — have a Michigan tour and another tour that has more to do with the Ford family and history, architecture and design, but relates to

the English standards. We were trying to figure out how to pack it all into one, but now (we are) figuring out how we can tease out these two strands and have robust tours in both of these areas.” These educational opportunities also will be made accessible to more students through scholarships for Title 1 schools covering transportation and tour costs. The opportunity to “learn from people who have been a part of Ford’s educational programming for years” has been particularly beneficial to the newly configured team of educators, Kingsley said. All but 12-year veteran Fishwick joined the staff within the last year and a half.

The teachers agreed the time was beneficial to them as well.

“This was the first teacher meeting I looked forward to in 10 years,” said Tuttle.

Ellis said she appreciated being asked for her input.

“This is the only place I’ve been to that has invited me and gotten my teacher feedback for how can we better serve you,” she said. “... They are willing to listen and change things around. Calling us in on our summers and saying, what do you think? How can we improve? That’s just amazing. We’re thrilled with that.”

The teachers’ role in the process doesn’t end with the meeting, Ruen said.

“There’s a second part to this. We’ve invited them all to come back to bring their grade level for a tour and then there’ll be a survey after that. We’ll get feedback to see how well or poorly we did.”

“Their tours are always great,” said Tuttle. “I expect nothing else but fabulousness. I’ve been coming over 10 years I can safely say and I’ve told them it’s still my favorite trip.”



Photo by Mary Anne Brush

From left, members of the social studies advisory board Lauren Plotzke, Stacey Goldman, Suzanne Tuttle and Jane Ellis met with Edsel and Eleanor Ford House education team members John-Duane Kingsley, Sheila Ruen, Mary Fishwick and Emily Weiss.



# News from Grosse Pointe Public Schools

## Major breaks for 2019/20 School Year

### GPPSS reconfiguration for fall of

### 2020-21

At their regular meeting, June 24th, the Board of Education voted on reconfiguration. This is the culmination of a year-long process that included:

A June 2018 Resolution that passed unanimously on what triggers would start a reconfiguration process

Enrollment data November 2018 confirming enrollment triggers had been met

A presentation to the board in January of 2019 that outlined 7 scenarios to start the reconfiguration conversation, and the recommendation to reconvene the Blue Ribbon Committee

6 Blue Ribbon meetings- all materials posted online

A League of Women Voters public forum

15 Town Halls attended by 1,196 community members

4 Listening Sessions conducted by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights

A 6 yes: 1 no vote to implement K-4, 5-8 grade configuration in the fall of 2020-21 addressing middle school capacity and educational goals, while allowing more space for preschool programming expansion at the elementary schools

A 5 yes: 2 no vote to merge Poupard School with Mason and Monteith elementary schools in the northern end of the district, and Trombly School with Defer Elementary School in the southern end of the district, in the fall of 2020-21

Information on school assignments by address will be coming out shortly, as will opportunities for parent, staff and student participation on committees that will ensure a smooth transition. Thank you for the tremendous participation to date. This process has been difficult because our community loves its schools. This solution allows the district to focus limited funding on the programs and people that make The Grosse Pointe Public School System one of the best public school districts in the nation. Together, we will continue to work toward Our Mission: Promote Innovation → Maximize Potential → Embrace Community.

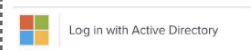
The GPEA teacher's union and GPPSS partnered to be able to release the major breaks for the 2019-20 school calendar.

1. The first day of student instruction will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019.
2. The following days will be holiday breaks for both students and teachers:
  1. November 27 - 29 (Thanksgiving)
  2. December 23 - January 1 (Christmas) - note this is one school day longer than the 2018-19 school year (returning 1/2/20)
  3. January 20 (MLK Day)
  4. February 17-21 (midwinter break)
  5. April 6 - April 10 - (spring break)
  6. May 25 - (Memorial Day)

Due to Election Day, November 5, 2019 will be a teacher work day, but not a student day.



#### Active Directory



#### Login:

Student identification number

#### Password:

Unique to student

#### Clever Badge

Obtain Clever Badge from classroom teacher.



Hold Clever Badge up to camera, lining it up with the square.

## District Partnerships



GROSSE POINTE FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION  
*Enriching, Engaging, Inspiring our Future*



Grosse Pointe • Harper Woods



Scholarship through Service



MISTAR ParentPortal



# FERRY

# MISSION

A community of learners  
and leaders- acknowledge,  
encourage, and celebrate  
talents and diversity

FERRY ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS