



Ferry Weekly Update

08/30/2019

Weekly Calendar

Monday 09/02 **No School – Labor Day**
 Tuesday 09/03 First day of school for students

1 Sun	2 Mon	3 Tue	4 Wed	5 Thu	6 Fri	7 Sat
		A	B	C	D	
	No School – Labor Day	First day of school				

Getting Involved at School

Volunteering is a great way to show your kids that you take an interest in their education. Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for the school community while showing their kids the importance of participating in the larger community. Even if you haven't been involved in the past, start now!

Four questions to consider:

1. What does the ideal volunteer experience look like to you?
2. What are your strengths and interests?
3. How many hours can you volunteer?
4. Is it better to actually be in the school or take things home to work on?

Consider some suggestions:

- Help in your child's classroom
- Have goal setting talks with child/teacher
- Mentor or tutor students,
- Use weekly data-sharing folders
- Help organize, cater, or work at fundraising activities
- Help to plan and chaperone field trips
- Organize or assist with a specific club or interest group
- Have regular personalized communication with teacher/school
- Sew costumes or build sets for theatrical and musical productions
- Volunteer to speak in the classroom or at a career day
- Supervise or judge experiments at a science fair
- Be at parent training events
- Invite school visits to your home
- Be involved in interactive homework, tips, and tools for home learning



The Grosse Pointe Public School System

Ferry Elementary School

Principal Message

Hello Ferry Families. Happy Summer!

Teachers and staff have been at Ferry working hard to get ready for a new group of students year of success.

We are excited to meet the kids and get to know them as learners so that we can support them best through the school year.

As the new school year approaches, it's a good time of year to talk with your kids about expectations and goals. What do they want this school year and how can we all make that happen? What are their "big rocks" to be proactive and plan for their best year? School is an extension of family and we're all in this together.

I saw these questions as conversation starters with kids. The teacher in me would follow up with, "What makes you say that?"

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. What made you smile?
4. Tell me about what you read in class.
5. Who did you play with today? What did you play?
6. What kind of person were you today?
7. What made your teacher smile?
8. How did you show or see kindness?
9. What's your goal for tomorrow?
10. Is there a question you wished I ask about your day?

I'm looking forward to an incredible year. Thanks for all the warm welcomes!

Jodie Randazzo
Principal, Ferry Elementary School

New Ferry Staff

Welcome

Ms. Sue Schmitz - 2nd grade

Coffee and Kleenex

**Tuesday, September 3
8:30 a.m.**

This will be held on the blacktop. If you drive, I'd suggest dropping your child off and parking after to meet so we can start our student's morning routine and keep drop off running smoothly.



**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 Class T-Shirts

Ferry PRE-K-5 Parents and Guardians:

In effort to build school community, each grade will be assigned a color for a Ferry T-Shirt. This T-shirt color would be the same T-shirt color they will wear throughout their elementary years. There is no need to purchase new ones each fall unless their shirt has been misplaced, stained or outgrown.

To show class unity, students will wear these shirts when attending field trips, Celebration parties, Spirit Days, and other special activities throughout the year. In public places, it would also help us to quickly identify the students wearing their class T-shirts.

The staff at Ferry will wear tie-dye shirts to represent all the grades. All shirts will have Ferry Elementary logo printed on it.

We hope to have all the students participate in our school wide-school spirit T-shirt program.

Please return this bottom portion to the office no later than September 6th.

Cost will be \$10.00 a shirt.

Please order a T-shirt for my child: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____ **Grade:** _____

- Youth Small 6
- Youth Large 10-12
- Youth Medium 8
- Youth X-Large 14-16

Include your ten dollars or check payable to CASH, Thank You!