

# SEPTEMBER 2017

## Welcome Back O'Loughlin Families

I would like to take a moment to welcome all the new and returning students and their families to O'Loughlin Elementary. I am excited to announce that we have 38 students in grades 1-5 that have never attended our school. We also have 68 new Kindergartners. This year promises to be an exciting one for all of us because there have been many changes here. You may have already noticed one of the most visible changes – the addition of two small classroom spaces in the media center. The Title I teachers have moved into those spaces. We also have new teachers—Mrs. Knight in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Miss Wooldridge in KDG, and Mrs. Pfanenstiel in art. Please join me in welcoming them as well. Once again, I have found the staff at O'Loughlin to be a dedicated and caring group of professionals. They have spent countless hours in professional development, preparing their rooms, and collaborating with each other throughout the summer. The custodial crews have cleaned and polished our building again, even though it was difficult with construction and the late rotation of the cleaning crews. I applaud all the staff at OES and all the parents that are “lending” us their children this year. It truly does take the whole family to make our children flourish each year. Thank you all!

The student population at O'Loughlin has reached 390 students. As our numbers have risen, so has the determination of all staff to provide safe and orderly procedures for the arrival and dismissal of students. Please note in this newsletter, the *Before and After School Procedures*. Traffic continues to be heavy before and after school, so we ask that you follow the guidelines that have been established by the staff through collaboration with the Hays Police Department and officials from TMP. The guidelines for dismissal of K-1 students have been sent out in our mass email system. We will establish detailed *written* guidelines for the other dismissal areas and send them out as well. I would ask that parents please remember to enter Victory Road on the south road and drive to the designated turn-around area to come back and pick up your children on the side of the road closest to the school. This will ensure the safety of our smallest students and help maintain the fidelity of the new concrete road that was poured this summer.

I ask for your patience as we continue to look at our procedures, inside and outside the building, and tweak them as we determine what will work best for our student population and families. Communication between all members of a school family is vitally important to ensure success for all students. Please call 785 623-2510, email me at [vgile@usd489.com](mailto:vgile@usd489.com), or stop by any time to communicate your concerns to me.

Wishing all of us a safe and successful year-  
-Vicki Gile, Principal

### Fall Open House

Please join us for an O'Loughlin Open House on Tuesday, September 12th.

O'Loughlin Open House from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the classrooms

O'Loughlin PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

### Title I / Reading Recovery

There will be Title I / Reading Recovery information available in the Title Room at the O'Loughlin Elementary Open House on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 6:30. The Title I program offers extra help to students in reading. Reading Recovery is a 1-on-1 intervention to help the first graders who are struggling with learning to read. Anyone interested in learning about these programs is welcome to come and visit with us! We would also be happy to speak individually to anyone having concerns or questions, at any time. We hope to see you at the Open House!

Laura Gaughan, Title I / Reading Recovery Teacher  
Krista Brooks, Title I / Reading Recovery Teacher

## Attendance/ Absences and Tardiness



Developing responsibility is an important life skill. Having your child arrive at school by 7:59 a.m. will help your child learn the importance of developing good work habits.

Our first morning bell rings at 7:54 a.m.

Classes begin at 7:59 a.m. If a student enters the building after this time, he/she is considered tardy and will be required to report to the office to check in. Encouraging regular attendance is important for your child's success at school. Children are counted absent when they are not in school for any reason. We ask that parents call the office if their child will be absent. Our secretary will be calling if a child is absent and we have not heard from the parents. Failure to call the school will result in an unexcused absence. It is our goal to provide a positive start for each child every day. Your assistance with attendance, absences and tardies is greatly appreciated.



To "Opt-In" to start receiving texts from School Connects, please follow the instructions below:

Text the word "Join" to 56360.

- If your number is already listed in PowerSchool you should get a confirmation text back telling you it was successful.
- If you receive a text back telling you that your number is not in the system, please email Amy Arnold at [aarnhold@usd489.com](mailto:aarnhold@usd489.com). Include the phone number you want in the email to be set up with the service. Text message rates will apply.

## Before and After School Procedures

Providing a safe environment for students is a top priority at O'Loughlin School. We will begin serving breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Children not eating breakfast are welcome to come into the cafeteria after 7:30 a.m. and wait quietly until morning playground supervision begins at 7:40 a.m.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO EARLY ENTRY TO SCHOOL PRIOR TO 7:30 A.M.**

**School starts at 7:59a.m.**

**Students will be dismissed at 3:02 p.m.**

To ease congestion, we suggest parents wait for their students outside of the building.

Should it become necessary to alter your usual dismissal plans for your child, WE REQUIRE A NOTIFICATION BY PHONE OR WRITTEN NOTE PRIOR TO 2:00 P.M. This allows enough time to have the notification delivered to the classroom prior to dismissal time. This notification is essential to ensure safety for our students at the end of the school day. When you need to pick up your child early from school, please come to the front office and we will call your child from class. To maximize instruction time, we ask that you not request students wait in the office prior to your arrival.

## Homework

Parents requesting homework for an absent student must do so before 10:00 a.m. Homework can be picked up after 2:30 p.m. in the office.

## School Pictures



All O'Loughlin students will have their picture taken on Friday, September 8, 2017. Parents will have

the opportunity to purchase any pictures they wish to keep.

Please remember to have your child dressed as you wish to see them in the pictures. Information will be sent home explaining prices of the pictures packets along with an order form.

## No Pets Allowed

Parents, please **do not** bring your pets to school during arrival and dismissal times. Your pets are wonderful companions but can become dangerous distractions to children during our busy traffic at arrival and dismissal. *Please do not bring your pets inside the building at any time.* Some students are allergic to pets and their presence in our building can become problematic.

## “MORNING MILE’ WITH THE U.S. ARMY

- All students in K-5 are invited to join in the running club
- Soldiers will form kids up and stretch them out
- Student progression will be tracked and rewarded each semester
- Inspires students to be active and exercise
- Tuesdays and Fridays mornings
- 7:15 a.m. –7:45 a.m.
- Will begin the end of September



Flyers will go home with kids with more information

# Peanut Aware



Our School does not serve any foods containing peanuts or tree nuts, but to say we are a “peanut free” gives a false sense of security. It is difficult to control what comes in from the outside in student and staff lunches and snacks. We need to be “Allergy Aware” there are also severe food allergies to milk, strawberries, shrimp as well as severe allergies to latex, and bee stings. We need to be very aware of the foods we bring into our school and use caution so that our students with severe allergies are kept safe.

Our students with severe allergies have allergy action plans that have been written with guidance from their physician. These are the plans we follow in case of an accidental exposure. The school nurse makes staff members aware of students who have severe allergies and trains them to recognize signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction and how to use an epi-pen. These students need to have their emergency medications with them every time they leave the building for a field trip or sports activity. Our students’ safety and wellbeing is the most important.

## PTA News

By Co-Presidents Brianna Day and Hayley Bieker

Welcome back to all! The fundraiser is in full swing! Packets are due back September 6th! There are some great items this year including tumblers!! Be sure to check out our O'Loughlin Eagle custom tumbler! Remember we also have the “No Fuss” fundraiser as an option as well! We are super excited to see the BMX Show at the rewards program!

Have you signed up to receive important O'Loughlin updates? If not, join the “Remind” app by texting @oloug to the number 81010. The app is free, safe and easy to use. We also ask that you enroll or renew your Dillon's Community rewards. You can go to [www.dillons.com](http://www.dillons.com) and click on the community rewards link. From there you can create an account or simply sign in to an existing account. Once you have logged in or created an account you can add a group to your community rewards. Simply type in O'Loughlin and click search. It will bring up our school. This is just another way you can support your children and their school by simply shopping for your everyday groceries. Dillon's donates back a portion of your bill to the school.

We are thankful to have so many families joining us with PTA memberships. PTA membership does not commit you to any specific event. It simply means you are investing in our children through your support. It is your desire as to how involved you become. Membership forms are attached below and the membership fee is only \$8. You can submit these to your child's teacher. Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 19th from 5:30-6:30p in the Media Center. We pride ourselves on working together to provide more for our students. We look forward to another fabulous year!! Please feel free to contact us at [OLoughlinPTA@gmail.com](mailto:OLoughlinPTA@gmail.com).

September 13– Early release day. School dismissal at 1:00.

## 2017-2018 O'Loughlin Elementary PTA Membership

Please Print All Information

Parent

Teacher

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact: Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

	Quantity	Price	Amount	
Membership	_____	\$8.00	_____	Paid <input type="checkbox"/>
T-shirt	_____	\$6.00	_____	Cash/Check # _____
PTA Donation	_____		_____	

*Want to support O'Loughlin, but don't have time to help out? All donations are appreciated and will be put to great use!*

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating/assisting with the following (circle all that apply):

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Attending Monthly Meetings | Fun Night            |
| Open House                 | Playground Cleanup   |
| Fundraising                | Back-To-School Night |
| Literacy Night             | Yearbook Committee   |
| Soup Supper                | Other _____          |
| Dine-Out Functions         |                      |
| School Pictures            |                      |
| Parent-Teacher Conferences |                      |