

WINTERSET ELEMENTARY

HOME OF THE WILDCATS!

August 2021



Audra Pearson, Principal
Suzanne Jennings, Secretary

IMPORTANT DATES

August, 2020:

23rd Party in the Parking Lot, 4:30 to 6:30 pm

23rd Kindergarten Orientation, 5:45 pm (masks required)

26th First day of School, students in grades 1st thru 5th

26th – 30th...Kindergarten assessments, by appointment only

31st First day of School for Kindergarten students

Dear Winterset Families,

Welcome to another exciting year of learning at Winterset Elementary! Whether you are new to Winterset or returning, we are so happy you have chosen to be part of the Winterset learning community. We are once again entering into a school year that has been affected by COVID-19. While inside the building, masks are required for all students, staff, and parents/visitors. We will be practicing 3 feet distancing, when capable, and students are required to wear a mask when riding the bus. Even with these mandates in place, I can guarantee the Winterset staff will do everything necessary to see

that your child can and will be successful. The excellent educational opportunities afforded Winterset students are a result of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. We look forward to another exciting year of partnership and growth!

To kick off the new school year, we will be hosting a "Party In The Parking Lot" on the evening of August 23rd, 2021, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, on the front lawn of the school. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see old friends, and meet new ones. We hope to see you there!

Please see that all of your personal information is updated in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Columbus City Schools now requires all families must utilize the Annual Update in the Parent Portal to update addresses and other household/demographic information including email addresses and emergency contact information. There are no exceptions. School secretaries no longer have access to update address and household/demographic information but can still update phone numbers. If you have not previously activated your Parent Portal account, please contact the school office. All important information will be shared electronically and we don't want you to miss anything. The information regarding who your child will have as their homeroom teacher will soon be available through the Parent Portal. Keep checking back regularly. Additionally, any important or updated information will be posted on our school website at <https://www.ccsch.us/WintersetES> and our Winterset PTA face book page throughout the school year.

As we move forward into this year, please plan to get involved with the Winterset PTA. We will be conducting our monthly PTA meetings virtually through ZOOM. Throughout the year there are many ways to be involved both during and after school hours. This is an excellent opportunity for new Winterset families to get to know each other and quickly become a part of our great school community!

I look forward to seeing each of you soon. Please watch for more information with important dates and times. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely,

Audra Pearson

Principal

Drop-off, Pick-up Routines: Safety First, Please!

Drop off and pick up times are always busy. They are also times that present an increased risk to student safety. We have 7 buses that must come through our parking lot each morning and afternoon. To help keep ALL CHILDREN SAFE, we ask that **everyone** abide by the rules posted below.

Please be advised that the doors of the building will not open before 8:30 am, with exception of Latchkey. **No child should be dropped off at the school before 8:30 am as there is no adult supervision before that time.** During the time periods of 8:40 to 9:00 am and 3:15 to 3:45 pm, the parking lot is **OFF limits** to any vehicles other than school buses and staff vehicles.

- **Students should be dropped off on Winterset Drive or on Rayne Lane only. (Please respect posted street signs and park only in legal spots.)**
- **Students and parents should cross the streets only at designated crosswalks. Please model safe street crossing habits for all children. Students should never be in the parking lot or school lane at drop off or dismissal times.**
- **When dropping off your child please pull completely to the curb and have him/her exit your car on the curb-side of your vehicle only.**
- **Please do NOT turn around or park in front of private driveways. (Our students use the sidewalks and our neighbors property is private.)**

Please make plans in the morning for how your child should go home at the end of the day and understand that **last minute phone calls at the end of the day should be reserved for emergency situations only.** Except in the case of an emergency, we require a note if there will be a change in how your child normally goes home (i.e. someone else picking up your child or a bus rider being picked up, etc.) If no note is provided, children will be sent home the usual way. Please understand that we cannot make phone calls to clarify at dismissal time. **Please do not request to sign your child out of school between 3:00 and 3:30 pm unless he/she has a doctor or dentist appointment.**

THANK YOU for your cooperation in helping to keep all of our children safe!

Welcome and Changes

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Mr. Shawn Abernathy, Fourth Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Traci Arway, Special Education Coordinator
- Ms. Sarah Emery, School Nurse
- Mrs. Jennifer Landsberg, Intervention Specialist

Daily Schedule

- Our instructional day begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:30 pm. Students are expected to be in classrooms at 9:00 am or they will be considered tardy. **Students who are being dropped off by a parent/guardian and are NOT eating breakfast should not arrive before 8:45 am.** This will help to avoid overcrowding in the breakfast room. Students wishing to eat breakfast at school should arrive between **8:30 and 8:50 am**. If your child arrives after 8:50 am and plans to eat breakfast, they will remain in the cafeteria until 9:00 am and may be marked as tardy. **The expectation is that children planning to eat breakfast at school will arrive early enough to finish breakfast by 9:00 am so they are not late to class.** As students finish eating breakfast, they will begin to be dismissed to their classrooms at 8:50 am. (Students who arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 am must report to the cafeteria, even if they are not planning to eat a school breakfast) **No student may be dropped off before 8:30 am, UNLESS they are enrolled in our latchkey program. Parents needing child care prior to 8:30 am may want to choose our latchkey program (for information, please call 614-365-5891) or pursue outside care.**
- **Our lunch schedule is as follows:** Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classes will have lunch from 11:45 to 12:15 pm
 - followed by recess from 12:15 to 12:45 pm.
- 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes will have recess from 11:45 to 12:15 pm
 - followed by lunch from 12:15 to 12:45 pm.
- All students will have a fifteen-minute afternoon recess. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes, 1:45 to 2:00 pm; 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes, 2:05 to 2:20 pm. On inclement weather days, students will have recess in their classrooms.

Breakfast / Lunch Program

Breakfast and lunch service will begin on the first day of school. Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 8:55 am daily in the gym and is free for all students. Students who are eating their breakfast at school (whether from the cafeteria or packed) must eat in the breakfast room only. Please note that students are not permitted to consume food or beverages (other than water) in the classrooms. Students who walk to school or are transported by parents and who wish to eat breakfast should arrive no later than 8:45 am. If your child is going to be late to school AND he/she will need a school lunch, you must call the school office to order one before 9:30 am. Otherwise you should plan to send a packed lunch as there may not be a lunch available.

Lunch will be served free for ALL students. Menus are available on the CCS website.

School-Home Communication

The link between home and school is vital to the success of your child. Therefore, we utilize many methods to make sure you are kept informed. Each year, recognizing the interconnectedness that technology affords, we strive to move more of our communication to electronic venues. We ask that you frequently check the Winterset website at <https://www.ccsqh.us/WintersetES>. We will also utilize e-mail, text, and auto dialer to send updated information. You may also contact staff members via e-mail (addresses are on the Winterset website). For a prompter response from the office, please use Ms. Pearson's or Mrs. Jennings' direct e-mail and NOT the generic 'Winterset.' Additionally, the Winterset PTA maintains its own website at www.wintersetpta.com.

'Friday Folder' will be our method of getting hard copies of important information to our families, such as fliers about upcoming dates and events. We will also utilize electronic communication through Blackboard and the Parent Portal. It is imperative we have a valid phone number and email address on record for a parent or guardian of each student. You are able to update this information at any time through your parent portal on Infinite Campus. We will also continue to use auto dialers and update the school website regularly.

Important Attendance Information

To avoid any confusion, please familiarize yourself with our procedures for reporting and excusing student absences and late arrivals.

The reasons for which a student may be excused absent and / or tardy are:

- Personal illness or quarantine
- Illness or death in the immediate household

- Emergencies or any other occurrences or situations which, in the judgment of the principal, may necessitate absence from school as a last resort.
- Religious holiday
- Superintendent's designation

Daily attendance is expected. In the event of excessive absences, parents will be requested to meet with our attendance team to support their children.

Parents Right to Know

Winterset is eligible and does receive some funding from the Federal Title I budget. As such, parents have the right to:

- Have access to their child's individual performance levels on the statewide assessments.
- To know if their child's school is making progress (please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at <http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx> for specific data).
- To know the qualifications of their child's teachers, and
- To be informed if their child is being taught by a substitute or a non-highly qualified teacher for longer than four consecutive weeks.

We will share more information regarding Winterset's Title I funding and how it is used.

Information and Forms

On the first day of school, your child will bring home several forms which need to be completed and returned to school. Our goal is to have all forms returned by Friday, September 3rd (preferably before). Please help us in this effort by completing these forms when you receive them.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that we have these important documents on time. Please remember to update the Parent Portal with any information changes that occur throughout the year.