Dear Commerce Families,

Thank you to everyone who attended Curriculum Night over the last couple weeks. We appreciate your support and partnership. I also would like to thank the 3rd grade parents/guardians who attended our informational session about the 3rd Grade Reading/Retention Law. If you were not able to join us, please read the letter on page 4 and view this video overview.

This week is the first half day of the 2019-2020 school year. We recognize that half days can be inconvenient for families. However, this time is extremely valuable for our staff and has a positive impact on your child's education. After students are dismissed on half days, teachers engage in professional development (PD) focused on our school improvement goals. This week, our staff will be focusing on our writing goal. I am grateful that our staff is always open to new learning and striving to provide an exemplary education for our kids.

This week is both Constitution Day and WLN Homecoming Week! On Tuesday, our school will commemorate the day our founding fathers signed our Constitution and learn about its importance. Our future Knights will also cheer on WL Northern during Homecoming Week. Their drumline will visit our school during dismissal on Wednesday and our kids are invited to walk in their Homecoming Parade on Friday (see below). Go Knights!

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. If it's important to you, it's important to us!

Sincerely,

Christina Carlin
Proud Principal, Commerce Elementary

---

Important Reminder: We have several children at Commerce who are vulnerable to contagious illnesses. These brave Cougars are fighting leukemia or Spinal Muscular Atrophy. We can help them stay healthy and strong in a few very simple ways...

- Talk with your child about the importance of proper hand washing.
- Teach your child to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze (and wash their hands).
- Notify the Main Office immediately if your child has a contagious illness like chicken pox, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza (the flu), and more.
- Most importantly, have your child stay home from school if they are sick.

Together, we can show that Commerce cares about these brave Cougars. On behalf of these special families and their medical teams, I thank you for your support and compassion.
Calling all Future Knights!
Join Us for the WLN Homecoming Parade!
Friday, September 20th at 5:00pm

Current Commerce kids are invited to participate in the WLN Homecoming Parade on September 20th! Students will receive a free "Future Knight" t-shirt (which will also get them into the Homecoming game for free)! Come join the fun! Please CLICK HERE to let us know you're coming. If you change your mind, that's okay. WLN is just trying to plan accordingly and have the correct number of t-shirts available. Please meet near the North entrance at 5:00pm (near the picnic tables). Each school will gather near their school sign and march in the parade with the band, king and queen, and class floats!

Please join us for a night of fun and school pride!

Mileage Club Volunteers Needed!

Mrs. Dubay needs your help to make Mileage Club a success! Please CLICK HERE to volunteer on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. This is a very low pressure job. Volunteers cheer on our kids and check off each lap earned.

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK FORM PRIOR TO VOLUNTEERING - CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THIS FORM.

PTA President’s Corner

- It was great seeing everyone at all of the Curriculum Night programs over the past two weeks. Thank you to all of the teachers who shared stories about how the PTA has helped in their classroom and around the school. We are so happy to support our staff!

- Speaking of supporting our staff, we couldn't do it without the support and contributions from our awesome Commerce community. We hope your fundraising for our Color Run is going great and we look forward to seeing everyone at the event on September 27th! We would love your help at the event, too. Click here to sign up!

- Mileage Club is another big program supported by the PTA and will be kicking off soon! Mrs. DuBay sent an email looking for volunteers to help with all grades. Click here to sign up and volunteer for Mileage Club!

- Our first PTA meeting of the year is coming up soon! Join us on Wednesday, September 18th at 7pm in the Media Center. Meet new people, learn about all we have planned for the year, and help us vote* on our budget! Did we mention there will be cookies?? *Only PTA members can cast a vote. If you haven’t yet joined the PTA, visit www.commerceelementarypta.com/pta-membership and sign up today! PTA membership needs to be renewed every year, so even if you were a member last year, you’ll need to sign up again this year!

- Finally, we hope you will join us at Defy this coming Tuesday, our first half day of the school year. From 1-4pm, Defy will donate 20% of all proceeds back to the PTA! This was a big fundraiser for us last year and we hope to repeat the same again this year! What a great way to spend an afternoon with friends!
Our Library Needs Your Help!

Mrs. Entwistle needs help in the library three mornings a week – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for about an hour starting at 9:00am. You will be checking in books and putting them away on the shelves. No experience necessary! Please email tinaentwistle@wlcsd.org if you can help. Thank you!

---

**Commerce Elementary Arrival/Dismissal Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Event</th>
<th>Time Event</th>
<th>Updated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Drop-Off Begins - 8:40am</td>
<td>Dismissal - 4:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Bell - 8:50am - Students Enter Building</td>
<td>Buses Depart - 4:07pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Bell - 8:55am - School Day Begins</td>
<td>Half Day Dismissal - 12:25pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Students who arrive after 8:55 are marked tardy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Updated*

---

The Western Oakland County Parenting Education Fair is coming to Walled Lake Northern High School on Saturday, November 2, 2019. We are very excited to have Brooks Gibbs joining us this year as our keynote speaker! Topics include managing social media with your child, reducing stress and anxiety, strategies to help you with a child with ADHD, nutrition, character building, planning for college, and more. Child care is available for a reasonable cost ($3 for one child, $5 per family) and includes entertainment and lunch. Lunch for conference participants will be available for purchase from local food trucks during the event. Please learn more about our keynote speaker, Brooks Gibbs, by watching: The Resilient Parenting Style and register online to attend. Registration is $15 per person or $25 per person at the door the day of the event.

---

**Communication is Key!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Office: 248-956-3900 Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Christina Carlin, Principal <a href="mailto:christinacarlin@wlcsd.org">christinacarlin@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.wlcsd.org/commerce">www.wlcsd.org/commerce</a></td>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Kathy Williams, Secretary <a href="mailto:kathywilliams@wlcsd.org">kathywilliams@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Us on Twitter! @CommerceElem</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Having login issues? CLICK HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Like our PTA on Facebook! Visit our PTA’s website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Commerce Elementary - Important Links and Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Handbook</td>
<td>School Calendar</td>
<td>PTA Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A great resource for new families!</td>
<td></td>
<td>Like the PTA’s facebook page, too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Newsletters</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
<td>Staff Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast and Lunch Menus</td>
<td>School Supply Lists</td>
<td>PrimeTime Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Michigan’s Third Grade Reading Law

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2017, the Michigan Legislature implemented the Third Grade Reading Law to ensure that students exit 3rd grade reading at or above grade level. This law impacts current kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students. In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing K-3 reading assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention, and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of K-3 students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and a read-at-home plan for you to help your child at home.

Reading instruction must be a major focus in grades K-3. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, social studies, writing and math. Much work is being done to ensure success of our K-3 students. Family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort.

Highlights of the law include:

- A state approved reading diagnostic assessment will be administered to all K-3 students. In Walled Lake, we will continue with the iReady Diagnostic assessment, which has been in place for the past several years. For more on iReady, please visit ireadycentral.com/familycenter/
- Based on iReady results, as well as teacher and principal consultation, students identified as being one or more years below grade level will receive targeted literacy support through the development of an Individual Reading Improvement Plan.
- The Individual Reading Improvement Plan will contain specific skill areas that will be addressed and monitored through interventions and instructional support.
- Schools will provide a School to Home Reading Plan for identified students and offer parent resources to assist with home reading strategies.
- In compliance with the law at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, 3rd grade students who do not demonstrate grade level reading proficiency on the state assessment, may be recommended for retention.
- For a closer look at the 3rd Grade Reading Law, please view this video and visit our district website (See the section under the Academics tab: wlcsd.org/academics/third-grade-reading-retention-law/)

Your child is in good hands with an exceptional teaching staff that continues to provide a laser focus on literacy instruction for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child's teacher, if you have any questions. We are here to help!

Sincerely,

Christina Carlin
Principal, Commerce Elementary

Updated 9/2019
COLOR RUN
IS SET FOR
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

tinyurl.com/CommerceMakesMagic

We Need You!!

We can not make this event successful without your help. We need many volunteers to pull this day off. Please go to the link in the red bar above and sign up to volunteer at the Color Run!

We are so excited to "Make Magic Happen". This event is our schools biggest fundraiser! 100% of all donations go directly back to the school.

As a reminder, all donations are due by Wednesday September 25th. Please have your children turn in their envelopes to their teachers!

Thank you for supporting your PTA!

2019 COLOR RUN SPONSORS

An Ultimate Sound
TAMMA CAPITAL
Epley
APEX Community Services
AMS Medical Supplies
AOE
MEGA
Come and support your Commerce Elementary PTA!

Join us at Defy Detroit (located next to Kroger) for an afternoon of jumping, dodgeball, foam pits, basketball a ninja course and so much more!

**Week Day Pricing**

- 1 Hour $16
- 1.5 Hour $21
- 2 Hour $25

*Price break for children under 7
* All Jumpers must purchase grip socks for $3

Defy Detroit will donate 20% of all admission paid, BACK to the PTA
*MUST BRING FLYER*

**Tuesday**

**September 17, 2019**

**1:00 pm-4:00 pm**

*All who enter must sign a waiver. All participants under the age of 18 must have a waiver signed by their parent or legal guardian. Waiver may be filled out and signed ahead of time at DefyDetroit.com/waiver*
LAKES AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE
19TH ANNUAL
“TASTE OF THE LAKES”

OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

EDGECOOD COUNTRY CLUB

FUNDRAISER IS TO HELP SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY’S YOUTH AND FAMILIES. HELP US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD NEGLECT, ABUSE AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Enjoy Great Food from Local Restaurants & Visit with Representatives from Local Schools, Courts, Municipalities, and Law Enforcement Agencies.

In Need of Silent Auction Donations & Sponsors

*** For more information email us at: LAYA@wlcsd.org ***
Or call us at 248-956-5070

$25 PER TICKET IN ADVANCE
$30 AT THE DOOR