Parent Teacher Conference Sign-Up

Dear Commerce Families,

A strong partnership with parents/guardians and teachers is key to ensuring our children's success. One important component of that partnership is parent/teacher conferences. This is an opportunity for us to meet, celebrate your child's progress, and discuss goals for continued growth.

This year, parent/teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, December 12th. On this date, students will be dismissed at 11:25am. After students are dismissed, teachers will be available for conferences throughout the afternoon and evening until 8:15pm.

Parents and guardians can sign-up for parent/teacher conferences using Skyward Family Access. Online sign-up for conferences opens on Monday, November 18th at *approximately* 7:00am and closes on December 6th.

Below are directions to help you sign-up:

- Elementary – Conference Sign-Up – Directions for Parents (Video)
- Link to Skyward Family Access

Please Note:

- In addition to your child's classroom teacher, you may also choose to sign-up for conferences with our FAPES teachers: PE, Music, Art, and Media. These conferences are OPTIONAL but we encourage you to sign-up if you have concerns, would like more information, or want to connect with our wonderful FAPES staff.
- If your child receives support from Elisa Kilgren, Erica Robinson, Chelsea Goddard, or Lisa Sherbel, you can also sign-up for conferences with our special services staff (in addition to your child's classroom teacher). They will be able to share specific information about your child's progress towards their IEP goals.
- If you need help logging in to Skyward Family Access, please e-mail familyaccess@wlcsd.org for tech support.

Please contact me or your child's teacher if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting with you at conferences!

Sincerely,
Christina Carlin
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 in a few 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.

Announcing our 2019–2020 Teacher of the Year…Mrs. Dubay!

We are so proud to announce that Commerce Elementary’s Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Dubay! As our amazing PE teacher, Tanya has a tremendous impact on our school community. She is passionate about promoting health and wellness and creates a dynamic, innovative, and positive environment in her classroom. She also has an impact on our larger school community. Her enthusiasm and hopefulness is contagious. We are so grateful for all she does for our school and our community. Congratulations, Mrs. Dubay! We appreciate YOU!

Winter Weather Reminders

Please note the following information regarding winter weather:

Children go outside for recess unless the temperature, including the wind chill, is zero degrees or below. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

- Coats/Jackets: 40-50 degrees - Recommended; **39 degrees and below** – Required
- Hats/Gloves/Mittens: 40-50 degrees - Recommended; **39 degrees and below** – Required
- Boots and Snow Pants: **REQUIRED if there is slush or snow**

Please Note:

- If your family needs financial assistance purchasing these items, please just let the Main Office know. We are happy to help!
- **Please label all clothing with your child’s name.** Our Lost and Found is overflowing!
- If the temperature (including the wind chill) is zero degrees or below, students will have indoor recess.

Morning Arrival: We often see an increase in tardies when the weather gets colder. PLEASE take advantage of bus transportation. Your child is never marked tardy if they ride the bus AND you get to avoid the headache of Farr Street!

If bus transportation is NOT available and you have no other option than to drive your child:

- Please make sure you **arrive early** and account for long lines on Farr Street.
- **Students can exit the drop-off line anywhere along the red curb.** They should NOT wait until they reach the front of the line. This causes delays for everyone behind you.
- Please also **make sure your child is ready-to-go** as you reach the drop-off area.

- **The last bell rings at 8:55am and children are expected to be in-school at that time.** This is also when tardy slips are given.

As adults, we know that being late can feel stressful and frustrating. We hope you will help our kids start their day on a positive note! Thank you for your support!
5th Grade Celebration Sponsors Needed!

Attention Parents! **We are looking for sponsors for our 5th Grade Celebration.** The minimum donation to be a sponsor is $200. This is a great opportunity to get your name out there! If you have a business or know someone who does that would like to donate, please let them know that their business name/information will be on our social media, signage around the school the day of the celebration and on our program which will be seen by several hundred people. These donations will help fund several different things throughout the day of the event.

**Fifth Grade Parents:** If you are still interested in sending your per student donation, please do so. You can send it check or cash in an envelope marked “5th Grade Celebration/PTA.” Also, if you have not sent in your photos, please do that as well. We want to include every 5th grade student in the slide show.

Questions? Please email: FifthGradeCougars@Gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrival Information</th>
<th>Dismissal Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Drop-Off Begins - 8:40 a.m.</td>
<td>Dismissal - 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Bell - 8:50 a.m. - Students Enter Building</td>
<td>Buses Depart - 4:07 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Bell - 8:55 a.m. - School Day Begins</td>
<td>Half Day Dismissal - 12:25 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students who arrive after 8:55 are marked tardy.</td>
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**PTA President’s Corner**

**News from our PTA President, Shayna Levin**

- Good luck to all of the students who submitted entries for this year’s Reflections contest! All student entrants will be treated to a special after-school reception in December. Keep an eye out for communication about the reception!

- Mark your calendars and plan to attend this week’s PTA meeting, Wednesday, November 20th at 7pm in the Media Center. In addition to our regular fun and shenanigans, we will have a presentation from the Department of Homeland Security on Cyber Safety that you will not want to miss. (This presentation is not suitable for kids, adults only please.)

- **Holiday Craft Night** is quickly approaching on December 4th and we need volunteers! Please click [here to sign up to help](#).

- **Spirit Wear** is on sale now! This year’s sale is ONLINE ONLY and runs until 11/29. [Click here to browse the store and submit your order!](#) Orders will be delivered to your students at school before Winter Break.

- **Kroger Community Rewards** is one of our biggest and easiest fundraisers of the year! We earn money when you shop, and we all shop! We want to encourage everyone to link their Kroger cards to the PTA, so we’re having a raffle! All you have to do is show us that your card is linked and you could win a Kroger gift card, an Amazon card, AND spirit wear! Click [here to submit your entry](#) before December 14th!
Commerce Elementary Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office: 248-956-3900</th>
<th>Website: <a href="http://www.wlcsd.org/commerce">www.wlcsd.org/commerce</a></th>
<th>Christina Carlin, Principal <a href="mailto:christinacarlin@wlcsd.org">christinacarlin@wlcsd.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<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>
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<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>
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Important Links and Resources:

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<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
<th>School Calendar</th>
<th>PTA Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Newsletters</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
<td>Staff Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast and Lunch Menus</td>
<td>School Supply Lists</td>
<td>PrimeTime Care</td>
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</tbody>
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Accessibility:

If any individual has difficulty accessing the information in this newsletter, they may contact our main office at 248-956-3900. We will provide the requested information in an alternate format. More information about our district accessibility practices and policies is available here.
Community Rewards Raffle

One of the biggest fundraisers our Commerce Elementary PTA participates in yearly is the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Through this program, Kroger donates thousands of dollars to our school and it couldn’t be easier to sign up! All you have to do is link your Kroger card to the PTA and you can help contribute to our PTA’s fundraising efforts, no selling, clipping, or calling necessary! You pay the same prices at the store, Kroger just gives some of the money back! How awesome! Visit the following website for a quick tutorial on linking your card: tinyurl.com/KrogerVideo

But wait! It gets better! Once you enroll your card and make a purchase linked to our school, you can win a prize! Visit the site below by December 14th to enter a raffle and win great prizes! All you'll need to enter is a picture of your Kroger receipt showing 'Commerce Elementary PTA' at the bottom! Is your card already linked to the PTA? Great! You can enter right now!

Remember, all entries must be submitted by December 14th! Questions? Contact the PTA at commerceelpta@gmail.com.

YOU COULD WIN

$50 Kroger Gift Card for the parents
&
$20 Amazon Gift Card & Commerce Elementary Spirit Wear for the Student
GREAT GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

COMMERCE ELEMENTARY
SPIRIT STORE

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT & SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

THESE GREAT ITEMS AND MORE FOR SALE AT:
www.teammwearables.com/commerce-elementary-spirit-store