Before and After School Security Protocols

Dear Commerce Families,

In an effort to improve our security protocols, please note the following information regarding before/after school activities. This information has also been communicated to coaches, instructors, and troop leaders. We recognize these protocols may be inconvenient but they are necessary to ensure student safety.

Security Protocols for Before and After School Activities:

- Doors will not be unlocked at any time and should not be propped open at any time.
- **Arrival:**
  - Coaches or instructors will meet students at the main entry and will escort their team or group to the gym or classroom.
  - If your child is late, please call or text the coach or instructor. They will meet your child at the entrance. Please try to avoid late arrivals since this interrupts practice or class.
- **Dismissal:**
  - Coaches or instructors will bring the group to the main entry at the end of practice/class. Parents will pick-up their child at the main entry. Doors will not be unlocked or propped open.
  - If you need to pick-up your child early, please call or text the coach or instructor.
- Please do not use the PrimeTime Care entrance. This is for PTC families only.
- These protocols are for before/after school clubs, teams, troop meetings, classes, etc.

Thank you for helping to keep our students safe. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our Main Office at 248-956-3900

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.
Thank you to the Student Council for attending this month's PTA meeting! Student Council members were able to learn a lot about Roberts Rules of Order and asked great questions about things happening around the school. They also gave a great presentation on some ideas they have. We are proud of all of you!

Our next PTA meeting is on Wednesday, March 18th. The official list of nominees for next year's PTA board will be presented at this meeting. If you want to participate in the executive board, please be sure to contact Shayna Levin at shayna.levin@gmail.com ASAP!

Our Hearts to You fundraiser was a big success, with love and smiles all around! Thank you to Jennifer Kapeller for all of her work to sort and distribute the hundreds of hearts everyone turned in!

Our Box Tops collection for this school year has officially ended! Although we are still tallying the results, we know we were able to raise over $1000 this year from this great fundraiser! Keep clipping and scanning your Box Tops to turn them in next fall! Thank you to Dee Awad for all of her hard work with this program!

Our next event is Moms and Muffins on Thursday, March 19th, from 7:45-8:45am! Look for more information in the coming weeks about this great event! We will need helping hands from some Commerce Dads. Keep an eye out for the volunteer signup. And, the Book Fair will be open, too! Lots of fun happening in just a few weeks!

You've heard bits and pieces about our new spring fundraiser, the Commerce Prom. Details are almost finalized and you won't want to miss this fantastic event! This adults-only evening will be held on Friday, April 17th. Mark your calendars!

You may qualify for affordable internet if you are eligible for public assistance programs such as free/reduced school lunches, Housing Assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others. Get connected today!

Fifth Grade Camp Information

5th Grade Camp Informational Meeting for Parents – Thursday, February 27th at 6:00pm (at Commerce in the Media Center)

Burton/Bison Camp – Monday, March 30th thru Wednesday, April 1st
Loughlin/Guilliani Camp – Wednesday, April 1st thru Friday, April 3rd

You can also learn more about 5th Grade Camp on the Outdoor Center's website. This information will also be provided in a packet during our informational meeting on February 27th.
Arrival and Dismissal Routines

Please note the following reminders regarding arrival and dismissal procedures.

Arrival Routines:
- We encourage all students to use bus transportation when available.
- Use caution and drive slowly on Farr Street and in our parking lot.
- Drop-off begins at 8:40am. Staff are present to monitor students at this time.
- The first bell rings at 8:50am and the final (tardy) bell rings at 8:55am.
- Students must be ready-to-go and should only exit curbside.
- If your child is not able to get out of the car by themselves, please park your car and walk your child to the main entrance.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not wait until you reach the front of the line to have your child exit. This causes delays and makes our drop-off process inefficient. Students can exit anywhere along the red curb (see image). 6-8 cars should be able to drop-off at one time.
- Tardies: Students are marked tardy at 8:55am. We’re always happy when our students are in-school. Please help your child start their day with their classmates and prevent missed instruction that occurs when students are tardy. Thank you for your support!

Dismissal Routines:
- **Changes in Dismissal Routines:** If there are unexpected changes in your child’s dismissal routine, please make sure you contact their teacher AND the main office before 3:30pm. Our office is a busy place, especially at the end of the day. Early notice is appreciated!
- **Cougar Carpool:** Please park only in designated parking spots. Many parents are making their own spots at the end of rows or other areas that are not designated as parking spots. This is dangerous and makes our parking lot even more congested. We understand that the lines are difficult to see when it snows. However, this happens even when it isn’t snowing.

Thank you, again, for your help. We want our routines to be efficient and, most importantly, our kids to be safe!
Attention PrimeTime Care Families

Dear PrimeTime Care Families,

Please note that there will not be childcare available in the afternoon of March 3rd (the district’s next professional learning half day) at any of our elementary schools. All staff will be involved in safety training that afternoon and unavailable to provide childcare. If you already paid for this afternoon half day, your account will be credited for this time. We will still be providing AM childcare for those who sign up. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Sincerely,
Prime Time Care Staff

WLCSD Food Service Job Openings

Food Service positions are our perfect jobs for our parents who want to have the same schedule as your children. We need you! If you have food service experience and would like to have a part time job, Walled Lake Consolidated School District Food Service Department is hiring. Monday thru Friday while your students are at school or if you know anyone who would be a great fit in our department, please go to the [Oakland Job Consortium website](http://www.oaklandjobconsortium.org) to view our Food Service Jobs. We currently have an opening for Guest Elementary as an Elementary Server and Wixom Elementary as an Elementary Server. We are always looking for subs as well. Questions? Contact Julie Fortner, Food Service Supervisor - juliefortner@wlcsd.org

Pokemon Cards, Rubix Cubes, Smart Watches…

Please Note:

- Trading cards (like Pokemon cards), rubix cubes, and other toys are not allowed at school unless specifically requested by the teacher for a special award day.
- Additionally, selling or trading items is not permitted at school.

  - If your child has a smart watch (like an apple watch), please review expectations for wearing the watch during school. Students should not be texting parents during school hours. If they need to contact their parent/guardian, they can do so in the Main Office. If a child’s smart watch becomes a distraction, we’ll ask that it is stored in their backpack during the day.

Please keep these items at home to prevent distractions and sad feelings should they go missing.

Save the Date! Incoming Kindergarten Orientation

Parents and guardians of future kindergartners are invited to Kindergarten Orientation at all 12 of our elementary schools - Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm.

Do you know a future Commerce Cougar? Please spread the word about Kindergarten Orientation! Please also contact our main office and add your name to our e-mail list so you receive information about our incoming kindergarten events. Call 248-956-3900 or e-mail denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org and tonyagray@wlcsd.org
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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher</td>
<td>Tonya Gray, Secretary <a href="mailto:tonyagray@wlcsd.org">tonyagray@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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Important Links and Resources:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
<th>School Calendar</th>
<th>PTA Website</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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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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.

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**Storytimes**

- **No Registration Required**
- **The Young & the Restless**
  - Mondays @ 11AM
  - Ages 0-3, Siblings Welcome
- **Family Night Storytime**
  - Mondays @ 7PM
  - All Ages
- **Family Storytime**
  - Thursdays @ 11AM
  - All Ages
- **Storytimes for 4s & 5s**
  - Tuesdays @ 11AM
  - Ages 4-5, No Parents
- **January 6 — April 30**

**Also Check Out**

- **Baby/Toddler Sensory Play**
  - March 20 @ 10:30AM
- **Play & Explore For Preschoolers**
  - March 13 @ 11AM

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**The skipper Youth & Teen Newsletter**

**March is Reading Month!**
Cast your ballot in our March Madness book showdown! Who will be the ultimate winner in 2020? Make your voice heard!

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**Library Hours**
- **Monday—Thursday**: 10 AM — 9 PM
- **Friday—Saturday**: 10 AM — 5 PM
- **Sunday**: 1 — 5 PM

**Community Library**
180 E. Commerce Rd.
Commerce Township, MI 48040
Youth Dept. ext 104
www.commercelibrary.info
January 29, 2020

Dear Third Grade Families,

Walled Lake Schools has a long-standing commitment to ensuring our students can read. Much before the state legislature passed the Michigan Third Grade Reading Law in 2017-18, Walled Lake Schools has been implementing progressive reading goals. In accordance with the state law, this year’s third graders are subject to the retention portion of the law. The law requires a minimum score on the M-STEP English Language Arts test for retention in third grade the following year. This spring, your child will take the test during the testing window scheduled for April 24 to May 22, 2020. The purpose of this communication is to remind you of Walled Lake’s commitment to early literacy instruction and ensure that all students are successful.

Some children find learning to read difficult as they grow and develop. In Walled Lake, we understand that each child has unique needs and we have the following practices in place:

- A bold assessment system to catch struggling students early
- Caring and highly skilled staff who intervene and support student needs
- Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIP) for students who are not meeting grade level reading expectations
- A home component to the IRIP which involves family support and collaboration
- Close progress monitoring and adjusting of plans for each student with an IRIP

If your child has been identified as needing support with an IRIP plan, your child’s school has already been in contact with you.

After the Spring M-STEP is given, students who have not met minimum requirements on the English Language Arts test will receive a letter from the Michigan Department of Education. This letter, mailed to your home, will notify you that your child has not met the minimum requirements and is subject to retention in third-grade for the following year. Walled Lake is committed to working with families receiving this letter. We will discuss plans with you on how to best support your child moving forward. To access information about “good cause exemptions” to the retention letter, please follow this link: Facts for Families-3rd grade.

You will continue to receive updates on the Third Grade Reading Law from your school principal and your child’s third grade teacher. Thank you for your partnership with Walled Lake and for making reading a priority in your home!

Sincerely,

Catherine Kochanski, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
READY, SET, FUN!

STRIDE

A fun, character-building afterschool program for boys

STRIDE is a fun afterschool character development and fitness program for boys in grades 3–8. Boys have the chance to share their thoughts and opinions about various life topics in a safe, encouraging environment that helps them develop character, while building their running endurance to complete a 5K.

In a world where boys are constantly trying to measure up to what they should be, STRIDE helps them discover who they are!

“AT STRIDE I LEARNED THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN STRENGTH AND YOU CAN RUN AT YOUR OWN PACE”

- Evan, 4th Grade

Where: Commerce Elementary
When: Wednesday & Fridays
Time: Wed: 7:30 - 9 Fri: 4 - 5:15
Includes:
» 20 Lessons with a Snack
» Cinch Bag & Water bottle
» T-shirt & Medal
» Entry into the 5K & Finisher Gift

Season Begins:
March 11th
Celebration 5K:
May 17, 2020
Lake St. Clair Metropark

REGISTRATION

Registration Dates:
NOW through 3/8/20
Cost:
Before 3/1/20 - $145
After 3/2/20 - $160

Register Online
ymcadetroit.org/stride
Scholarships and payment plans are available.

STRIDE
YMCA OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT
Jill Gallagher
jill.gallagher@ymcadetroit.org
P (313) 223 2790
gotr@ymcadetroit.org

Everyone is welcome. Financial assistance is available. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit strengthens communities in Southeast Michigan and beyond through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.