

Good Morning and Happy Labor Day Weekend Evergreen Families,

Here are several items for your attention...

Week 1 in Evergreen

The 2023-24 school year has gotten off to an excellent start in Evergreen. This past week our students learned a lot about their classrooms, their classmates, their teachers, and about the plans we have to help them grow as learners, friends, and community members. We are looking forward to a year of tremendous growth in our students and are so grateful for the ways you foster this growth in your children. The Evergreen staff understands the value of a strong partnership between families and schools and the positive impact that can have on our children's success. We look forward to building those partnerships with each of you during the 2023-24 school year!

Classroom Communities that are Growing Together

Over the course of this year, our staff will spend a significant amount of time and energy on building a caring and supportive community of learners in their classrooms. Teachers and staff will help foster new friendships. They will celebrate students' similarities and differences with the goal of developing a rich learning environment. I would encourage you to spend time talking to your children about their classmates and friends. Listen for those positive qualities your child sees in others and acknowledge their efforts to develop new friendships.

Knowing your Child as a Learner

In September, one of the big goals for staff is to get to know our Evergreen students as learners. Students' interests, areas of strength, things they are striving to get better at, and how we can best help them grow this year, are all critical components of building a strong learning community. Over the next couple of weeks, our students will continue to participate in a variety of assessments that the Evergreen staff will use to plan effective instruction for our students. Following the collection and review of our students' assessment data, staff members will create reading groups that are designed to give our students targeted support.

Electronic Devices Reminder

We wanted to share this reminder with you regarding electronic devices and ask for your help in encouraging your children to make good choices about leaving their devices at home. Thank you! This is Evergreen's personal electronic devices policy, which is aligned for consistency across the K-8 buildings, states:

*"Evergreen students will not be permitted to have personal electronic devices out during the school day, including **cell phones, smartwatches, and tablets, among others.** Preferably, these items would remain at home, however, if a student brings a device, it should be turned off and left in their backpack during school hours. If personal electronic devices are observed by staff they may be confiscated and turned in to the office. Parents will then be asked to make arrangements with the office to pick up the device."*

School Safety Week

Over the next couple of weeks, the district's school buildings will participate in a district-wide School Safety Week. Throughout that week, all buildings and departments will practice each of our district safety drills. Students' safety and well-being are of the utmost importance to us, and we look forward to increasing their awareness of the procedures we would take in a variety of emergency situations.

Allendale's K-5 Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) - Invitation

Allendale Public Schools has been blessed for many years with a tremendous PTO. Each year the PTO contributes to the success of our schools through their involvement. Along with organizing very successful fundraisers, the PTO creates and assists with a variety of student activities throughout the year. If you are looking for ways to be more informed about the school system, or are seeking ways to be involved, we invite you to attend our PTO meetings. Our first PTO Parent Meeting of the year will be Wednesday, September 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Evergreen's East Library.

The PTO's first organized event is a **PTO Spirit Wear Sale** which is going on right now. We have spirit wear samples available in the Evergreen office, if you would like to check out the various sizes. Click on the link here to place an order:

https://allendaleswag.itemorder.com/shop/home/?fbclid=IwAR02wFNSuCSU2rHCPWlx1kDfPKwVkm_kJ4w0o3Ze0nPKASGG-00tH-Ff-0

The deadline to order is Sunday, September 10, 2023. See the attached flyer for more information. Go Falcons!

Free School Lunch and Breakfast Forms

This year, the Michigan Schools Meals program is allowing all public school students to receive one free school breakfast and one free school lunch per day. Because APS' Food Service funding is still dependent on the district's free/reduced lunch rates, if you have qualified in the past or believe your family would qualify currently for free and reduced lunch service, it would be very helpful if you would fill out an application at allendale.familyportal.cloud. If you have any questions please contact Food Service at 616-892-5591

Respectfully,

Doug Bol, Principal
Evergreen Elementary School