



Oakwood Intermediate School

Back-to-School Newsletter – August, 2022

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer break with their families and friends. As we approach the middle of August, anticipation is growing as the first day of school draws near. Along with that opening day excitement, one thing we are looking forward to about the 2022-23 school year is beginning Oakwood's school year with a focus on creating **community**. Google defines "community" in this way: "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals." Over the last few years, we have come to understand the value of fellowship with others and that belonging to a community is important. There is no question that in schools, and in students' personal growth, relationships and belonging matter. The Oakwood staff has committed to fostering positive relationships and creating community with, and between, our students this year. Students will experience this through time in the school day dedicated to partner and group-focused learning, as well as community building activities in the classroom. We have plans to reach out beyond our classroom walls and create community with broader groups of people as well. We certainly want to draw our families back into community with our school and we would love to make connections with local businesses and organizations too. Our hope for the 2022-23 school year is that, through meaningful relationships, our students feel they belong to a loving community who want to support them as they grow in their love of learning. Together, we can fulfill the Allendale Public Schools mission to "educate, inspire, and support all students."

As we prepare for classes to begin soon, there are a few important pieces of information we would like to share with you.

2022-23 Class Lists: This year's class lists will be available in two different ways. First, if we have an email address of yours on file we will send you an email on Friday morning, August 19, with a link to the class lists. Second, the class lists will be posted on the front doors of the Oakwood office for your viewing, beginning at **8:00 am on Friday, August 19.**

Oakwood Intermediate Open House: On **Wednesday, August 24 (7:00 pm-8:30 pm)** we will hold our annual open house. You are invited to come to school to meet your child's teacher and visit classrooms. This evening will not run on a set schedule. You may come to visit anytime between 7:00 and 8:30 pm. You are encouraged to attend the open house as information is available that will be valuable to you and your child.

Oakwood Intermediate Office Hours: The Oakwood office opened on **Monday, August 15** with summer hours from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

School Begins: Our first day of school is Monday, August 29. Please note that Oakwood's school day begins at 8:28 a.m. and ends at 3:21 p.m. Bus drivers will release students from the buses at 8:18 to go directly to their classroom where they will have some time to unload their backpacks, check in with their teacher and connect with friends. If you plan to drive your child to school in the morning, we ask that you arrive between 8:18-8:25 and use your assigned traffic circle. We will continue to use the 4th and 5th grade student drop-off and pick-up loops that were established two years ago. The 5th grade loop runs through the District Office parking lot and students will enter the district office doors, while our 4th grade loop is in front of the Oakwood office entrance. If you need to drop off your child earlier than 8:18, the district does offer before-school day care. You can find out more information about our day care program, Good Time Friends, by contacting their office at 892-5579.

Medications: If you need to drop off your child's medications in the office please contact one of our secretaries, Ms. Brown or Mrs. Meyers, to make an appointment to come into the office.

Oakwood Handbook: The Oakwood Intermediate Student/Parent Handbook has been updated and is available on our webpage. We ask that you spend some time reviewing the handbook so that you are aware of our policies and procedures. During the first several weeks of school, our staff will communicate important sections of the handbook to our students. Please note, we have reworded our personal electronic devices policy so that it is in alignment K-8. I have added it here so that you can be aware of our expectations regarding personal devices.

"Oakwood 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 into the office. Parents will then be asked to make arrangements with the office to pick up the device."

Oakwood Communications: Throughout the school year Mrs. Luban will send email communications. We urge you to spend a few minutes reading through them as they will contain relevant information for our Oakwood community. For your convenience, we will place copies of each of these updates on the Oakwood webpage as well. Additionally, we will manage an Oakwood Intermediate School Facebook page as a way to share information and photos: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.Oakwood>

Finally, you can find a copy of Oakwood's **school supplies list** for your 4th and 5th grade student on the Oakwood page of the Allendale Public School website, or you can follow this link: <https://www.allendale.k12.mi.us/schools/oakwood/>

Respectfully,

Gwen Luban

Mrs. Gwen Luban, Principal
Oakwood Intermediate School