September Parent Newsletter

Dear Easthaven Families:

September is a very important month in your child’s education. Teachers are busy ensuring that students follow four principles that guide our day: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Prepared. Students are learning how to use these principles throughout the school community—in the hallways, in the restrooms, in the lunchroom, on the playground, and most importantly in the classrooms. Students are learning what it means to be prepared for learning each day. All students are taken through orientation sessions so that they learn the beliefs of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (P.B.I.S.) program. How might you reinforce what students are learning in school at home and in the community?

**Mark your Calendars**

September 1 Labor Day (no school for students)

September 4 Preschool First Day of School

September 9 Beginning of the Year Diagnostic Testing (Mathematics and Reading)

September 22 Open House (4:30 – 6:00 p.m.)

**Beginning of the Year (BOY) Diagnostic Testing**

Students in grades K-5 are required to take diagnostic tests in Mathematics and Reading each year.

The i-Ready Diagnostic is a computer-adaptive assessment for K-12 students in Math and Reading that identifies their current skill levels to inform personalized instruction. It uses an algorithm to adjust question difficulty based on student performance, providing actionable data on specific skill domains. Administered three times a year, the assessment helps teachers pinpoint individual student strengths and weaknesses to create targeted [learning paths](https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS1034US1034&cs=0&sca_esv=465159d7bf2b0b64&q=learning+paths&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi_g8GDhK6PAxX7jYkEHezGFMIQxccNegQIBRAB&mstk=AUtExfB5-K_jQAjvm2Yv3XvA6PtX9n8Am8b_sed2ncXS1Ae9_cJnTZc_wR3EM8pWqakB5-2iL42e9iX0Fik7o30Cfq6HHqbOM-P9ejI1dinY53ka281PsFiF4QHse2wT2OeDPOjKkXphVsMDji5GcnHvtG1L_C_nKxTbGE7PRvo2k5KVpN4&csui=3) and monitor growth.

**Emergency Medical Card/Beginning of the Year Paperwork**

**Parent Portal**

By now, all parents should have activated the parent portal account for your child. This gives you real-time information and access to your child’s education records. Important information will be sent via Blackboard to your email address; it is important that you maintain an active email account as we are moving away from paper communication. If at anytime your email address changes, you must use the parent portal to update it. You must also update the Emergency Medical Card (YELLOW) on the parent portal, listing friends/relatives who can have access to pick up your child if you cannot. Remember anyone attempting to pick up a child must have valid identification, including parent/guardians. We will also send paper copies of the YELLOW card to be kept on file in the office.

**Transportation**

The first few weeks of school, transportation can be hectic. The number to the Transportation Department is 614-365-5074. For concerns/complaints about transportation, please call the Customer Relations Office at 614-365-8888. School staff, including the principal, will not have the answers that you are seeking regarding missed pick- ups, late buses etc. It is best to call the numbers listed to help with your concerns.

**Parent Student Handbook (to be sent electronically)**

Each family will receive an electronic copy of our Parent Student Handbook. Please review this handbook in its entirety with your child as it details important information about our school.

**Open House**

Please make every attempt to attend the Open House scheduled on September 22, 2025 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. This is a more formal opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and learn ways to build a positive home/school connection. We look forward to seeing you!!!

**Attendance—Every Minute Counts**

The instructional day begins at 9:00. Please make sure that your child is present each day and stays until dismissal time. Each minute counts!!! Avoid a House Bill 410 attendance intervention plan by making sure to send in medical or written documentation for any absences. As much as possible, please refrain from late starts and early dismissals as this will count against your child’s attendance.

**NOTICE TO PARENTS REGARDING TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Columbus City Schools receives Federal Title I funding and as a parent, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child.  Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teacher and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner, if you ask for it.  Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers:

* If the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas taught
* If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which State qualifications or licensing criteria are waived because of special circumstances
* The teacher's college major; whether the teacher holds any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees
* Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

**NOTIFICATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS UNDER SECTION 504**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is a non-discrimination statute barring discrimination on the basis of one's disability.  It is the policy of the school district not to discriminate on the basis of disability in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by the Act.  The Act requires the school district to locate, evaluate and determine if the student is a qualified individual requiring accommodations necessary to provide access to educational programs.  Parents are entitled to have the opportunity to review relevant education records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).