

Principal Peddle's Pen

Upcoming Dates and Information for Devonshire Families

Week of November 18, 2024

Hello, Devonshire Families!

I cannot believe next week is Thanksgiving and Wellness Week! Our scholars, staff, families and community have worked so hard to get us to where we are, and for that I am eternally grateful.

As we enter the winter months, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of safety during this season.

- **Dress Warmly:** Make sure you wear plenty of layers, including a warm coat, hat, gloves, and a scarf. Don't forget to wear snow boots to keep your feet warm and dry, and always make sure your clothes are waterproof when playing in the snow.
- **Watch Out for Ice:** Be careful when walking on icy surfaces! Always walk slowly and watch where you're going to avoid slipping. If you see a patch of ice, stay away from it and let an adult know.
- **Stay Active and Take Breaks:** Playing outside is lots of fun, but it's important to take breaks to warm up inside. If you feel too cold or your fingers or toes start to get numb, it's time to head inside and warm up. Don't forget to drink water, even in the winter!

Additionally, it's vital to recognize that seasonal changes can affect our children's moods. As the days get shorter and colder, some children (and adults) may experience feelings of sadness, irritability, or low energy. It's important to keep an eye out for any changes in your child's mood, especially if they seem more tired, withdrawn, or discouraged than usual. If you notice that your child is struggling more than usual with emotions or mood swings, reach out to their teacher, counselor, or doctor for advice.

It's important to talk openly about how they're feeling and get the support they need, whether it's through extra activities, counseling, or simply a little more understanding during this time of year.

Let's also take this time to discuss and reinforce positive behaviors at home. Encouraging kindness, empathy, and understanding can greatly benefit our students' well-being. Some ways that

you can help are:

- Children learn best by example. Make a habit of showing kindness in everyday situations—whether it's saying thank you, offering help, or listening attentively. Encourage your child to look for opportunities to be kind to others, whether at home, at school, or in the community. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference!
- When your child demonstrates good behavior, such as sharing, being respectful, or solving problems peacefully, take time to acknowledge and praise it. Positive reinforcement helps children feel proud of their actions and motivates them to continue making good choices. A simple "I'm proud of you for helping your friend today!" can go a long way in building their confidence and reinforcing positive behavior.

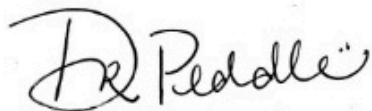
Every person in our school—whether student, teacher, staff, or family member—deserves to feel respected, valued, and supported. It is crucial that we all work to build relationships based on empathy, understanding, and compassion. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or at home, we can all make a difference by showing kindness in our words and actions.

It's important to remember that **hate has no home here**. We do not tolerate bullying, discrimination, or unkind behavior of any kind. Our school is a place where kindness, inclusion, and respect should be at the heart of every interaction. If we each make a choice every day to treat others the way we want to be treated, we will create a community where everyone can thrive and feel supported.

Let's continue to work together to spread kindness, build strong relationships, and ensure our school is a place where **everyone belongs**.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

As always, should you have any questions, or need any assistance, please reach out to my office.



Is Your Student's Information Up-To-Date?

As we navigate through the year, *I want to remind you of the importance of ensuring your child's information such as, emergency contact information, immunizations, etc. are up-to-date. This information is what we use in the event of inclement weather, emergencies, etc.* [Please log into Parent Portal, select "Annual Update" to:](#)

- Update your student's information
 - Confirm emergency phone numbers
 - Complete the emergency medical authorization
-

Safety Reminders

November and December are often busy times around school and at home, so I wanted to remind you of a few safety items:

- The speed limit on Ambleside Drive is 25 mph, and our parking lot's speed limit is 10 mph.
- No students should be dropped off prior to 8:30 am. There are not staff on duty to supervise.
- Dismissal is from 3:15 - 3:35 daily. Routine late pick-ups may result in intervention from our Attendance Team.
- We kindly ask that if you need to change your student's dismissal, you call us *prior* to 3 pm.

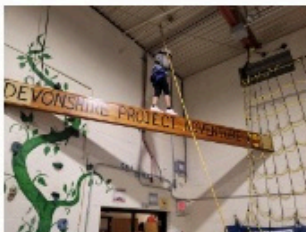
Climbing Unit Continues!

We are so excited to be climbing again. Please make sure your child wears tennis shoes, and proper attire for climbing during the next few weeks. **Students who wear crocs, etc., will not be able to climb.**

Are you interested in coming to watch your student's class climb?? Connect with your child's teacher (find their email [here](#)) to see what day and time they're climbing.

Please reach out to Coach Scott if you have any questions about climbing.

Coach Scott: KScott6834@columbus.k12.oh.us



Columbus Public Health FREE Vaccine Clinic at Devonshire

Columbus Public Health will be at Devonshire on Tuesday, December 3rd for **FREE** Flu Vaccines! If you're interested, please complete the consent form below for your student. (Note: One form per student. 2 students? 2 forms.)



Curious about our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)?

Mrs. Sferrella has put together a great newsletter outlining the monthly PBIS traits, her bi-weekly classroom lessons, and some mindfulness resources for you at home! Check it out below:

Updates from Mrs. Sferrella, School Counselor

Devonshire Celebrates College & Career Readiness Week



Letter from Dr. Chapman, Superintendent

Dear Columbus City Schools Community,

As you may be aware, there has been national attention surrounding a series of racist and hateful text messages targeting specific groups of students; I am sad to report that, unfortunately, some of our students have been affected by this as well.

These messages go against everything we stand for as a community and have been hurtful and disturbing for those affected. Incidents such as these are a constant reminder of our priority on the safety and well-being of every student in our care.

Columbus City Schools stands firmly against all forms of racism, harassment, and hate. These acts harm those directly affected, as well as our entire community. We are committed to ensuring that such behavior has no place here and that every student deserves to feel safe, valued, and respected—whether in the classroom or within our community.

I encourage you to have an age-appropriate conversation with your children, emphasizing the importance that if they "See Something," they should "Say Something," and immediately report any concerns to their teachers, staff, or a responsible adult. In addition, anyone connected to Columbus City Schools can call or text our 24-hour anonymous *Safer Together* hotline at 844-SAFER-OH.

Please know that we are using all available resources to support the students and families impacted. Our district counselors and support staff are here to offer care, guidance, and a listening ear for any student or family member who may need it.

To our families, staff, and community partners: this incident reinforces the importance of our collective commitment to equity, inclusion, and the well-being of each student. Together, we will continue to build a safe, nurturing environment where all students can thrive, free from hate and fear.

Thank you for your ongoing support and solidarity against inequality and exclusion and for a stronger, more inclusive Columbus City Schools.

Sincerely,
Dr. Angela Chapman



Upcoming Events at Devonshire

November

11/20 - State-Wide Lock Down Drill at 10 am

11/22 - Penny Harvest "PJ Day"

11/25 - 11/29 - No School - Wellness Week

December

12/3 - Columbus Public Health Vaccine Clinic - Click [here](#) to register

12/4 - School Smiles

12/5 - School Smiles

12/19 - Winter Concert @ Woodward Park MS



Join Columbus City Schools' [Pathway Express](#) on **Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at the [Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#) (4850 W Powell Rd., Powell, OH 43065), for a day full of exploring STEM and Zoology!

Registration for the event opens Monday, November 18 at noon!

On **December 14**, Family Learning Experiences include:

- Free Flu Shots
- Marine Life Exploration with the Watters Aquatic Conservation Center
- Environmental Responsibility Awareness with Keep Columbus Beautiful
- Free Books and Giveaways (While Supplies Last)
- Experience the Magical Zoo Lights!

During December's Pathway Express event, learning will be centered around Critical Thinking, a key quality in our [Portrait of a Graduate](#). This means helping our students analyze and apply evidence-based reasoning to understand "big picture" challenges and how solutions affect other parts of a system.

Come see what the excitement is about and be one of the 15,000+ families who have embraced an innovative approach to education through inclusive learning experiences aligned to Ohio Standards.

Families must register in advance for tickets. [Click here to register today.](#)

Ticket registration begins on Monday, November 18 at noon.

Free transportation is provided! Buses will shuttle families from Northland, Walnut Ridge, South, and West High Schools to the zoo and back. Buses will depart from each school at 3:00 p.m. and will depart the zoo at 8:00 p.m. to drop families back off at the school that evening.

When Weather Takes A Turn, You Need To Know!



WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS



When Winter Weather Forces Classes to be Canceled, You Need to Know Right Away!

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS is ready for the return of winter and those days when inclement weather can have a major impact on your child's school day...and on your busy day. Make sure to plan ahead.

STAY CONNECTED: News about school cancellations, extra-curricular activities, field trips, and/or student-athletic events are shared in several ways.

- **Make sure:** the contact information on file at your child's school is accurate. If you need to update this information, contact the main office in your child's school or log on to the **Parent Portal**. (This includes emergency contacts, phone numbers, and email addresses).
- **Follow:** **Columbus City Schools** on **Facebook**, **Twitter** or **Instagram** or check our **website**, we'll share news about snow days and other cancellations with an instant message to your phone or tablet.
- **Answer:** All families and staff will be alerted through an automated call from the District's phone system.
- **Monitor:** the news on local television and radio stations.

HAVE A BACKUP PLAN: When inclement weather impacts the morning commute, our leadership plans to determine whether to cancel classes no later than 5:30 a.m. If rough weather is forecast for the afternoon, classes may dismiss as early as noon. Have an alternative plan for your child's day set.

- **Supervision:** is your child responsible enough to be home alone or do they need someone to stay with?
- **Healthy Food:** is there nutritious food available for your child to eat for breakfast and lunch?
- **Safe Location:** if classes are dismissed early, does your child go home or to another location? If your child is under the age of 8, will there be someone to meet them at the bus stop?
- **Engaging Activities:** what safe activities do you have for your child to do if they are at home for an unexpected amount of time?

For answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**, visit www.ccsch.us/weather



Stay Warm and Informed.pdf

Download

97.7 KB

Devonshire Student & Family Handbook

CCS Guide To Student Success

Parent Portal How To Guide

How To Contact Devonshire

DevonshireES@columbus.k12.oh.us | (614) 365-5335

Absence Excuses & Notifications

Attendance.Devonshire@columbus.k12.oh.us | (380) 997-0247

Click Here To Email Our Attendance Team



Dr. Peddle, Principal

www.ccsdh.us/DevonshireES

Dr. Peddle is the Principal at Devonshire Alt. Elementary School