



# West Ottawa Public Schools

*Preparing Students to Be College, Career and Life Ready!*

## Great Lakes Newsletter

September 18th, 2020

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From the desk of Mr. Stefanich

Thank you so much for the start to a great year. Obviously school is looking different this year but I am so proud of the students and staff for their hard work. Students have been awesome at wearing their masks and letting teachers know when they need mask breaks. Our teachers have been creative in the ways in which they are delivering their instruction to ensure that while we are also teaching, we are continuing to follow proper safety protocols.

I also want to thank all of the parents who have done a great job at following our beginning and end of the day procedures for student drop off and pick up. It has been going very smoothly and our students are able to enter the building in a very calm and safe way.

Please be sure you are checking your child for onset COVID symptoms every day before they come to school. Please do not send your child to school with a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or if they have lost their sense of smell or taste. If they have any of the above symptoms you should notify the office staff right away.



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### Important Dates

**October 1st - 11th**  
School Nurse Virtual 5K

**October 7th**  
Student Count Day

**October 8th**  
Student Count Day

**October 13th**  
Milo Therapy Dog Visits  
Great Lakes



### PTO Board Members

**We do not have volunteers for our PTO this year. We are in the process of dissolving our PTO with hopes to start it back up next year.**

President— Leslie Franklin  
Treasurer— unfilled  
Co-Treasurer— unfilled  
Secretary— unfilled

# MAKING UP ON LOST TIME

As educators we know that your child has missed a lot of school. We have already been working hard to help our students get comfortable with the new school year, but to also ensure that they are making strong academic gains. We have already done a benchmark reading assessment on our students and we are using that data to help plan ways to best improve each student's reading ability. We also will be doing a benchmark assessment in math and we will also be using that data to drive our teaching.

One way you can continue to help us make up for lost time is by reading with, to, or having your child read at home every night. In Kindergarten we expect our students to read for 15 minutes with their parent or guardian every night. In first grade that expectation increases to 20 minutes. Our second grade students should be reading 25 minutes every night. Finally, students in third through fifth grade should be reading 30 minutes every night. One thing that is helpful to accomplish this goal is to set a time of day that you will do this reading with your child. This routine is so important as it allows for consistency and also helps to ensure that the reading gets done every day.

## STAY Connected

Stay connected with us at Great Lakes by following our school on Twitter. You can follow @GreatLakesWO for the most up to date information on what is happening at school.

Also, many of our teachers are on Twitter. Ask your child's teacher what their Twitter Handle is so you can stay current on what is going on in their classroom.

Finally, be sure to checkout our new PTO website. <http://greatlakespto.weebly.com/>

## Onset COVID Symptoms

As we are further into the school year, I wanted to remind parents of the flow chart from the Ottawa County Health Department that we are following when students exhibit onset COVID symptoms. If students have any **ONE** these (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or loss of taste or smell) **OR any TWO** of these (fever over 100.4, chills, muscle aches, sore throat, diarrhea/vomiting/stomach pain, congestion/runny nose, headache or fatigue) students must be excluded from school.

When students are sent home with onset COVID symptoms parents have three options to help their child return to school. The first option is to call your doctor and get an alternative diagnosis. The second option is to have your student take a COVID test and receive a negative result. The third option is to do neither and have your child stay home from school for ten days. One thing that is frustrating for all is that onset symptoms also resemble other symptoms that students might have during a normal year. However, we will continue to follow the guideline from the Ottawa County Health Department