



# West Ottawa Public Schools

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

## Great Lakes Newsletter

March 26th, 2021

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From the desk of Mr. Stefanich

I can not believe that we have already completed the third marking period of the school year. Time really does fly. I wanted to take a minute to share with parents that as of the writing of this newsletter, we are still planning on giving the state assessment (the M STEP) this year to our third through fifth grade students.

For our fifth grade students, the MSTEP will begin on April 14th. Fifth grade students are required to take an ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science test. This test allows us to see the progress they have made over the school year.

In fourth and third grade, students are required to take the M STEP in both ELA and Math. For our third and fourth grade students this will be the first time that they have ever taken this assessment. It is important that students come to school well rested and ready to give their best effort. Like all assessments, the goal is for students to give great effort and to show what they know. This year students will be taking this assessment on Chromebooks. Our students have gotten very used to learning on Chromebooks and I am looking forward to a very smooth and productive testing season.



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### Important Dates

**March 29th**

Character Dress Up Day

**March 31st**

3rd-5th Grade Honor Roll

**April 2nd**

Spring Break Begins

**April 12th**

School Resumes



### 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

# COVID UPDATE

In Ottawa County we have recently seen an increase in the amount of COVID cases that are being reported daily. Although this can be alarming, it is important to remember the safety practices we have in place at Great Lakes. Students have assigned seats in their classroom and in the lunchroom. We do a very good job of keeping students spread out as much as possible. Our students at Great Lakes continue to wear masks when we are at school. We have seen first hand how these masks can help limit both the spread of COVID but also cut down on the amount of germs that are being shared at school with our youngest of students.

Finally, we have really worked to ensure students are washing (or sanitizing) their hands frequently. We have a surplus of hand sanitizer and we also have hand sanitization stations located around the building. All of us at Great Lakes feel very proud of how our students have handled all of the changes this year. It has been yet another reminder of just how resilient kids can be. As we look to the remainder of the year our staff at Great Lakes will continue to be diligent in our safety practices and protocols in order to keep students at school, having fun and learning.

## 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/>

## Reminder of 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