

The Blake Buzz

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Blake families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! This year's theme is a simple one—"Bee Kind." Through kindness and compassion, our students will build positive relationships with others built on trust and empathy.

We will also continue to reflect and review the 8 habits of happy kids as well, practicing good listening skills, teamwork, and leadership. The idea of teamwork does not happen at Blake alone, however. You, the parent, and your child's teachers are part of a valuable team. We cannot do it alone. Stay connected in your child's learning. Don't hesitate to ask questions or bring concerns to your child's teachers or myself. Ask your child to show you what they've learned and to demonstrate his/her growing abilities at home. Together we will help Blake's students achieve amazing things and achieve their dreams!

Have a wonderful school year!

Eldora Lavdas, Principal



EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULE

Please add the following dates to your calendar. Please note, on Early Release days, students are released one hour earlier, at 2:30PM. AM Kindergarten dismissal is 11:05AM and PM Kindergarten arrival is 12:20PM on these days.

November 20 December 20 February 14 May 30

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 8/16—Meet the Teacher Night
5:30-6:15 Last names A-L /
6:15-7:00 Last names M-Z
- 8/20—First day (grades 1-5)/
Kindergarten testing by appt.
- 8/21—First day Kindergarten
last names A-L
- 8/22 First day Kindergarten
last names M-Z
- 8/24—Summer reading logs
due
- 9/3—Labor Day (No School)
- 9/14—Fall Picture Day
- 9/19—Parent Ed Camp
(@MHS)
- 9/21—Community Spirit
Night (MHS stadium)
- 9/24-9/28—4th Grade Terra
Nova Testing

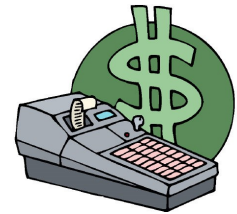


LUNCH ACCOUNTS/SCHOOL FEES

The Pay For It program on the district website allows you to pay fees online as well as to add money into your child's lunch account. This service does charge a 3% fee for every transaction. To avoid this fee, you may always pay by check or cash in the office (for school fees), or send in money for either fees or lunch accounts in an envelope with your child.

It is our understanding that even

if you do not wish to use the program to pay fees or add lunch money, if you create an account, you will still be able to see the balance remaining in your child's lunch account.



WE NEED YOU!

Blake LOVES its volunteers! If you can dedicate any time to working with students during the school day, supervising a lunchtime club, or helping out with any of the many PTO-sponsored activities throughout the year, please consider it!

All you have to do is complete the volunteer application online on the website—www.medinabees.org. If you have not had a background check in the last 5 years, you will need to do so, but it is very easy to do! A voucher covering this charge will be sent to you to have it done free of charge at the Montville Police Department. Please keep a lookout for information on volunteering coming home from PTO and your child's teacher as well!

We invite you to join us at our monthly PTO meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30PM in the Blake cafeteria. Free child care provided by responsible Medina High School students is available as well.



Don't Forget the 8 Habits of Happy Kids!

Habit 1: Be Proactive ("You're in charge of you!")

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind ("Have a plan!")

Habit 3: Put First Things First ("Work first, then play!")

Habit 4: Think Win-Win ("Everyone can win!")

Habit 5: Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood ("Listen before you talk!")

Habit 6: Synergize ("Together is better!")

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw ("Balance feels best!")

Habit 8: Find Your Voice ("Everyone is good at something!")

PBIS Behavior Matrix

We are in the second full year of our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) implementation. An updated behavior matrix will be coming home in the first week with your child. You will also see posters of the behaviors throughout the building as well. It outlines specific behaviors taught and expected in key areas of the building. We will also be positively reinforcing behavior throughout the day in all areas.

The behavior matrix, along with the 8 habits, help Blake students to...

Bee Ready! Bee Respectful! Bee Responsible!

LUNCH/RECESS TIMES

Below are the lunch/recess times for this school year. All students will have lunch first, followed by recess. Lunch is 25 minutes and recess is 20 minutes. **Please allow us 2 weeks before coming to eat lunch with your child.** The first two weeks of school are crucial for teaching procedures, tracking how much time it takes students to go through the line, and for students to form friendships at lunch. After the first two weeks, you are welcome to eat lunch with your child anytime. Please sign into the office and get a visitor sticker. **Guests may not go out to recess due to supervision and security issues.**

Kindergarten—11:10-11:35 Lunch 11:40-12:00 Recess

1st Grade—11:30-11:55 Lunch 12:00-12:20 Recess

4th Grade—11:50-12:15 Lunch 12:20-12:40 Recess

5th Grade—12:10-12:35 Lunch 12:40-1:00 Recess

3rd Grade—12:30-12:55 Lunch 1:00-1:20 Recess

2nd Grade—12:50-1:15 Lunch 1:20-1:40 Recess

TWO SCULPTORS

I dreamed I saw a studio
And watched two sculptors there.

The clay they used was a child's
mind

And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher—the tools he
used

Were books, music, and art.

The other, a parent, worked with a
guiding hand,

And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled
with a touch

That was careful, deft, and sure,

While the parent labored by his
side

And polished and smoothed it
over.

And when at last, their task was
done,

They were proud of what they had
wrought.

For the things they had molded
into the child

Could neither be sold nor bought.

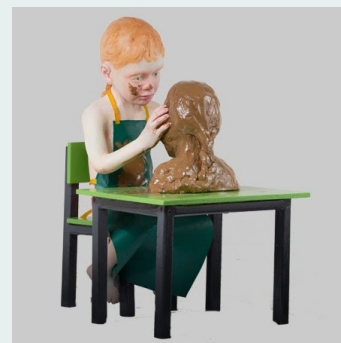
And each agreed they would have
failed

If either had worked alone.

For behind the parent stood the
school

And behind the teacher, the home.

-Anonymous-



Stay Connected All Year Long!

It's important to stay connected to your child's academics and happenings at Blake all year long! Here's how!

HOW TO CONTACT US:

If you need to contact the office for anything, call 330-636-3900. Our friendly secretaries—Mrs. Stygles and Mrs. Lewis—will be happy to help you!

You can also email Mrs. Lavdas at lavdase@medinabees.org. But if you have a question or concern regarding your child, contact your child's teacher first!

- Check Progress Book often to see your child's grades and assignments
- Read any emails or newsletters coming from your child's teachers and principal (Check book bags every evening)
- Check your child's agenda nightly for homework and notes from teachers
- Install the Remind app on your phone and subscribe to Blake messages (info in your back to school papers)
- Check the Blake website and calendar
- Come to PTO meetings every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM in the Blake cafete-



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be spread out over several evenings (beginning each evening at 4:00) this school year. The dates are:

October 11th

October 18th

October 24th

We will also have one evening of Spring conferences on **March 7th.**

Teachers will have sign-up sheets at Meet the Teacher night.



**Welcome to the
2018-2019
school year!**