



— WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL



August/September, 2019 Newsletter

Welcome from Mrs. Grice!

I am excited to welcome you back to school for the 2019-2020 school year at Waite Elementary! It's hard to believe that this August marks our school's **10 year anniversary!** We look forward to celebrating with an exciting year of learning, fun and new adventures! The teachers and staff have been busy preparing the school and classrooms for the upcoming year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school and meeting our many new students and families that have joined the Waite family this summer!

At Waite, we are committed towards growing enthusiastic readers and writers, as well as critical thinkers and problem solvers in mathematics. In addition to strong academics, we value and help the students develop strong character values to become outstanding **LEARNERS** and **LEADERS**. As leaders, students will develop good habits of **kindness, respect** and **responsibility** as well as the 21st century skills of: **creativity, critical thinking, communication** and **collaboration**. Our staff is committed to helping our students develop a growth mindset and recognize that their unique gifts and talents can and will make positive contributions to the world around them.

I look forward to a great school year! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at gricec@medinabees.org or 330-636-4500.



Mrs. Cindy Grice
Waite Elementary Principal

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Mr. Waite and his family for funding the AMAZING LANDSCAPING improvements to our school! We are so incredibly grateful for their kindness and generosity.

A big thank you to members of Girl Scout Troop #21212 for decorating our lobby's Back to School showcase and helping to maintain and water our existing and new landscaping!

Welcome from our Office Staff!

Mrs. Tammy Lynes, Secretary

Phone: 330-636-4500

Email: lynest@medinabees.org

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00-4:00

Mrs. Lisa Schmitt, Secretary

Phone: 330-636-4501

Email: schmittl@medinabees.org

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30-2:30

Ms. Julia Copley, Guidance Counselor

Email: copleyj@medinabees.org

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:15-3:45

Mrs. Carrie Martin, Psychologist

Email: martinc@medinabees.org

Mrs. Missy Pipa, District RN

Email: mpipa@akronchildrens.org

Our school health aide, **Mrs. Michelle Ganda**, is in the Waite Clinic every day from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. The phone number to the clinic is 330-636-4504.

UPCOMING DATES

Mon., August 19: First Day for Students- Grades 1-5.

Grade K: testing appointments only

Tues., August 20: (Last names A-L) K students attend

Wed., August 21: (Last names M-Z) K students attend

Thurs., August 22: All K students attend school!

Mon. September 2: Labor Day - No School

Fri., September 13: Medina City Schools Spirit Night

Tailgate Party/Kindergarten Night

SCHOOL FEES

All school fees must be paid by September 30th!

THANK YOU!

Kindergarten: \$31

3rd Grade: \$44

1st Grade: \$31

4th Grade: \$44

2nd Grade: \$36

5th Grade: \$44

Payment Options: Cash, checks payable to Medina City Schools, or online payment at www.payforit.net
Online payments now incur a minimal service fee.

“Bee” in the Know!

Our school uses three main forms of communication to keep you informed:

- **EMAIL:** Mrs. Grice will email out a monthly newsletter each month. Please make sure that you have your current email address updated in the Registration Gateway system.
- **FACEBOOK:**  Our school Facebook page is hopping with excitement! See the daily updates, pictures, videos, and stories of the amazing learning taking place at our school each and every day.
Like and follow our Facebook Pages below:
 - Ralph E. Waite Elementary School
 - Ralph E. Waite Elementary Art Room
 - Ralph E. Waite PTO
- **WEBSITE:** Please be sure to check out our Waite Elementary webpage at:
www.medinabees.org/schools/ralph-e-waite-elementary
Our website includes important dates and information, events, updates, opportunities for students and families, and great links to support learning!

DISTRICT EMAIL

To contact a Medina City School staff member, their email address is the first seven letters of the person's last name, followed by the first initial @medinabees.org.

STUDENT MEDICATION

ALL medications must be delivered by an ADULT ONLY to the SCHOOL CLINIC. Only school health personnel are permitted to receive medication. Students must never possess any type of medication without documentation from a physician allowing him/her to do so. This includes cough drops. Prescription and non-prescription medication forms are available in our office and online..

END OF THE DAY TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

If you need to change your child's after school transportation arrangements, **please send a written note to the teacher. Please do NOT email this information.** If the teacher is not at school that day or the email system is down, substitutes do not have access to email so your information will not be received. If an emergency arises and you need to call the office to inform students of a change, **please call before 3 p.m. to ensure the message will get to your child(ren).** If your child is going home with another student after school, BOTH students need notes. For the first few weeks of school, bus passes will not be permitted in order to allow the bus drivers time to familiarize themselves with their students.

ABSENCE PROCEDURE

If your child is going to be absent, please call the attendance line at 330-636-4504 before 9:00 a.m. If your child will be absent three or more days, you can request homework be sent home/picked up when you leave your message.

TARDY PROCEDURE

If your child will be arriving after 8:55 (tardy bell), please call the attendance line before 9:00 a.m. When your child arrives to school after 8:55 a.m., you must park in the parking lot and walk your student to the office and sign him/her in on the sign in/out sheet. Students are not to sign themselves in or out.

LEAVING EARLY PROCEDURE

If your child will be leaving early, please send a note in to the teacher. Again, please **do not email** this information. If the teacher is not at school that day or the email system is down, substitutes do not have access to email so your information will not be received.

VACATION PROCEDURE

Vacation request forms must be filled out for any absence other than illness, appointments, or funerals. Please refer to page 22 of the Medina City Schools Elementary Handbook for details.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast and lunch menus will be available monthly online at www.medinabees.org as well as our Facebook page and in the school office. Lunches are \$3.00 and Breakfasts are \$2.00.

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:40 Students permitted to exit cars or buses
8:45 Entry bell
8:55 Tardy bell
3:25 Dismissal of students

EARLY RELEASE DATES

Students are dismissed at 2:30pm from school on the following dates: **November 26, December 19, February 13, and May 28**

2019-2020 LUNCH AND RECESS SCHEDULE

Grade 2:	Lunch 10:50-11:15	Recess 11:15-11:40
Grade 4:	Lunch 11:15-11:40	Recess 11:40-12:05
Grade 1:	Lunch 11:40-12:05	Recess 12:05-12:30
Grade K:	Lunch 12:05-12:30	Recess 12:30-12:55
Grade 3:	Lunch 12:30-12:55	Recess 12:55-1:20
Grade 5:	Lunch 12:55-1:20	Recess 1:20-1:45

Parents are welcome to join their child for lunch in the school cafeteria. Visitors are not permitted to go to recess. If you wish to purchase a school lunch, please call the Waite cafeteria directly at 330-636-4510 **BEFORE 9:15am.**

MCS LUNCHROOM VISITOR GUIDELINES

\$2.00 Student Breakfast

\$3.00 Student Lunch

\$4.00 Adult Lunch

1. All adults should check into the office when arriving to eat lunch.
2. Any adult eating with a student should be the student's guardian or on the student's contact list provided from the parents or have provided the office with written/verbal permission from the student's parents.
3. Adults will be given a visitor's pass and can only enter the cafeteria.
4. When lunch is over, adults should sign out at the office.

VOLUNTEER AND/OR VISITOR PROCEDURES

We welcome parent volunteers! If you would like to volunteer at school or chaperone field trips, you must first complete a Volunteer Background Check. Please see the link on our website "Volunteer Application Information" for a list of the necessary procedures. Background checks are good for five years. For any questions regarding this process, please contact Sandi Debnar at 330.636.3012 or email her at debnars@medinabees.org.

Visitor and Volunteer Notes:

1. All visitors and volunteers must be "buzzed" into the main doors to our office.
2. Office staff will ask your name and purpose for the visit.
3. Be prepared to show identification.
4. Visitors and volunteers must sign in and wear a **VISIBLE** school badge/sticker.
5. Visitors and volunteers are only permitted in the location of the building that they were invited to visit or volunteer.
6. If you are visiting for lunch, please wait in the chairs in the office; however, when your child's lunch time begins, please proceed directly to the cafeteria.
7. Visitors and volunteers are not permitted in hallways, near classrooms or in student restrooms.
8. After having lunch with your student, visitors, please return directly to the office to sign out.
9. Visitors and volunteers are not permitted to be out at recess or in classrooms during indoor recess.
10. Visitors and volunteers must sign out at the office before leaving the building.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Safety is our number one priority. Medina City Schools staff and students practice various safety drills throughout the year (fire, tornado and ALICE: intruder drills). ALICE stands for: **A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter, **E**vacuate/**E**scape. All students have been

trained how to barricade, escape (doors and windows), and we discussed options for counter. The evacuation rally point for Waite Elementary is Living Hope Church on Route 3 (Wooster-Pike Rd.), and the students are aware of its location in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Grice or Officer Pinkas at dpinkas@montvilletwp.org.

Additional Procedures:

1. No one is permitted to walk students to their classrooms.
2. No one is permitted to deliver items to the classrooms.
3. Any items that need their child(ren) to be picked up early must write a note to the office stating the name of the person picking up their child(ren), the time, and the reason. Please do not email the secretary or the teacher. Identification may be required before students are called to the office and released to the individual.
4. All exterior doors and classroom doors are locked and closed throughout the day.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

Copies can be found on our website, facebook page and on the parent information board in our school's office.

WHO IS MR. WAITE?



The students at Waite Elementary have the privilege to know the man after our school is named, Mr. Ralph E. Waite. Mr. Waite has been very involved in all school activities since our school opened in 2009, and he celebrates the students' accomplishments every month. Mr. Waite is a lifelong resident of Medina and is an inspiring role model to all of us.

Did you know?

- Mr. Waite is a 1948 graduate of MHS!
- Mr. Waite has an amazing train collection!
- Mr. Waite drove a school bus for Medina City Schools and served many years on the school board!
- Mr. Waite served in the U.S. Army during WW2!
- Mr. Waite was the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 501 for 30 years!

See the link on our website titled "Who is Mr. Waite?" to find out more!





WELCOME FROM OUR WAITE PTO!

President: Lauren Rismiller

Vice President: Melissa Kostilnik

Treasurer: Melissa Tricomi

Secretary: Julie Warfe

Contact Waite PTO: waitepto@medinabees.org

Waite PTO Mission Statement

The Waite PTO is an organization whose purpose is to strengthen, enhance and encourage the educational and social environment at Waite Elementary. We strive to encourage parent volunteerism and community involvement in our school. Our purpose is to:

- Foster a sense of school pride.
- Promote team atmosphere among parents, teachers and administration.
- Utilize our fundraising efforts to enrich students' educational experiences
- Provide assistance to teachers in the classroom
- Host events that support family and school interaction

Meeting Dates and Times

The Waite PTO will meet quarterly on September 17th, November 12th, February 11th and April 14th 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Waite Elementary. The meetings will provide information about upcoming PTO events and also give information about curriculum, classroom teacher updates and school activities. Child care is available during the meetings. We welcome new people, creativity and new ideas! We hope to see you there!

Additional Funds

PTO also receives money from the collection of Box Tops and local restaurant fundraiser nights. With this money, we were able to purchase many great supplies for playground and additional technology for the school. Thank you in advance for your support!

PTO EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 13th: Medina Spirit Night!

Come join the fun for a tailgate party at MHS with games, food and fun. Also our Kindergarten students will get to parade around the track prior to the game.

SEPTEMBER 20th: Homecoming Parade!

Show your Medina spirit by helping decorate the Waite float and joining us in the parade! 6:00 p.m.(5:45 meet)

OCTOBER 18th: Waite Fall PTO Fundraising Event!

Waite PTO's largest fundraising effort takes place in the fall. It is an afternoon of exercise, games and fun to raise funds for our school! This funds many student activities throughout the year. More information coming home soon!

DECEMBER 3rd: All Fired Up Ornament Night!

Enjoy a family night of fun at Waite painting ornaments from All Fired Up and refreshments.

JANUARY 14th: Waite Family Bingo Night!

Come and enjoy an hour of Waite Family Bingo and fun prizes.

MARCH: Mother-Son Event @ Scene 75!

Each year, moms and sons enjoy a special event of their own! We will once again host a fun night out for moms/sons at Scene 75 arcade in Brunswick! Look for a specific date coming soon.

APRIL 3rd: Father-Daughter Dance!

The girls look forward to a special event each year to dance the night away with their dad or special guest. The girls and dads enjoy refreshments, dancing, and photos.

MAY 15th: Family/Community Fun Night!

Carnival games, food trucks, firetruck, police cars, Bookmobile, and over 30 local business vendors! This event takes place each year on a Friday night in May and celebrates our school-community partnerships!

OTHER PTO CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAITE:

Chromebooks for Classrooms

Waite PTO is proud to announce that they were able to fund 4 carts of 15 Chromebooks for students to use in the classroom! Thank you!!

Framed Artwork

PTO provides 3 framed pieces of student artwork each year! The artwork is displayed throughout our school.

Student Agenda Planners

PTO provides all students (Grades 2-5) with an agenda planner!

Kidscripts and Science Assemblies

PTO provides a yearly Kidscripts assembly each year for the students, which highlights Waite student writers!

Books for Students and Classrooms

PTO provides all students who complete the Summer Reading Challenge with a book, as well as \$100 of books for every classroom!

