

July 2022

Dear Shale Meadows families,

It is my pleasure to welcome back students, parents, staff and our entire Shale Meadows community to another great school year ahead! We are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year and all that it will bring for our school family. Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing to fulfill our District's mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student. While it isn't quite time yet, please know we will be ready and waiting with enthusiasm in August.

Communication with our families is important to us and we have several places you can find back-to-school information as well as gather pertinent information throughout the year. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these resources and bookmark or download them.

**Website:** Bookmark [Shale Meadows website](#). You will be able to retrieve building specific information here throughout the year. Additionally, you will find district-level news and contact information here.

**OLSD App:** If you have not already done so, please download the district's free mobile app, Olentangy Schools, at the Apple Store or at Google Play to stay connected with our schools. Once you download the app, select the school(s) you would like to follow and set push notifications. Doing so allows you to receive customizable news, calendars, and notifications including district and building level news on your mobile devices.

**Schoology:** Schoology is used for classroom level communication from teachers about assignments, activities, homework and other classroom events. Parents can also communicate with teachers directly through this system. Schoology may also be accessed through the district mobile app.

**PowerSchool:** PowerSchool is where parents will complete and update important electronic forms at the start of the year, pay fees, receive student grades and report cards and district-level reports and letters. The district's mass notification system is integrated with PowerSchool and the contact information provided on the emergency medical form, so please make sure your information is accurate and updated throughout the year. New families should opt in to the district's text messaging service by texting YES to 87569.



**Social Media:** The district Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and podcast pages share what makes Olentangy unique and special. Follow social media here:

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/olentangyschools/](http://www.facebook.com/olentangyschools/)

Twitter - [@olentangysd](https://twitter.com/olentangysd)

Instagram - [@olentangylocalschools](https://www.instagram.com/olentangylocalschools)

LinkedIn – Olentangy Local School District

YouTube - [www.youtube.com/user/OlentangySchools](http://www.youtube.com/user/OlentangySchools)

Podcast - [rss.com/podcasts/helloolentangy/](http://rss.com/podcasts/helloolentangy/)

Understanding and using these communication tools is the best way to stay in the know about events and information for not only our school but all of our Olentangy Schools.

As is the case with any new school year, we are welcoming some new staff members to the Shale Meadows team. Please join us in welcoming:

Becky Dittman – Gifted Intervention Specialist

Ashton Peck – Art Teacher

Jennifer Ritter – Intervention Specialist

Emily Steele – Traveling Art Teacher

Additionally, some of our favorite familiar faces will be working in new areas. Please join me in welcoming these staff members to their new roles:

Shannon Gladieux-Keefer – Math Specialist

Looking toward the start of another great school year, it is important to remember we want to give time for our students to gain some independence and build confidence in settling into their new school routines. We believe our students will be most successful if they are able to learn to take care of themselves and take pride in their independence. Thank you for partnering with us to build these skills in our students, your children. Please note some of the following beginning of the year procedures:

**Drop-off: 8:55 a.m.**

**Dismissal: 3:45 p.m.**

Dates to mark in your calendar include:

August 16 – Open House

August 18 – First Day of School

August 25 – Curriculum Night, K-2

September 1 – Curriculum Night, 3-5



Parent/Teacher Conference Dates:

October 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm

February 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Testing Dates:

Second Grade – February 22-March 3

Third Grade – October 19-25, February 22-March 3, and April 5-May 8

Fourth Grade – April 5-May 8

Fifth Grade – April 5-May 8

As you begin to prepare for your own family's back-to-school routine, you may consider incorporating some of the following activities:

**Reading:** Read at home together at least 20 minutes each day, making it a fun, family tradition.

**Sleep:** Getting a good night's sleep is an essential key to a productive day for each of us. Establishing a school bedtime routine a week or two before the beginning of school makes adjusting to the school year easier for everyone in your home.

**Healthy start:** Planning ahead to start each day with a healthy breakfast helps ensure that your child has a great day at school and can focus on the day ahead.

Once again, we are excited for another year at Shale Meadows Elementary. If at any time you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact your child's teacher first and then our front office. I look forward to seeing all of you on our first day back to school, Thursday, August 18. If you have any questions you may contact me at [greta\\_gnagy@olsd.us](mailto:greta_gnagy@olsd.us) or 740-657-5830.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and Go Monarchs!

Sincerely,

Greta Gnagy  
Principal  
Shale Meadows Elementary