

MURRAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

Starting the week of August 24, we will host parent orientations by grade level from 2:45-3:35 PM. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics, other school initiatives, our volunteer program, and more specifics about your child's curriculum and classroom expectations.

Parent orientation dates:

Grade 2:	Aug 25, 2015
Pre-K:	Aug 26, 2015
Grade 5/6:	Sep 1, 2015
Kindergarten:	Sep 2, 2015
Grade 3/4:	Sep 8, 2015
Grade 1:	Sep 9, 2015

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Talisha Thompson
Principal



August 21, 2015
Newsletter

Dates to Remember

- ☺ **August 25-** 2nd Grade Parent Orientation, 2:45
- ☺ **August 26-** Pre-K Parent Orientation, 2:45
- ☺ **September 1,** Grade 5/6 Parent Orientation, 2:45pm
- ☺ **September 1,** PTO Meeting 2:30 pm
- ☺ **September 1,** Coffee with the Principal, 4:00 pm
- ☺ **September 2,** K-6 Progress Reports
- ☺ **September 2,** Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 2:45pm
- ☺ **September 3-7,** No School
- ☺ **September 8,** Grade 3/4 Parent Orientation, 2:45pm
- ☺ **September 9,** 1st Grade Parent Orientation, 2:45pm

Teachers' Corner

What's Happening Around Murray!

Second Grade

2nd graders are working very hard on solving word problems! We are learning to "unpack" a problem. We know to look for data and clue words that help us to pick an operation! We are using manipulatives to help us arrive at the correct answer. It has been a great start to the year

-Ms. Simmons, Ms Osterman, & Ms. Kenny



Third & Fourth Grade News!

Third and fourth grade students are off to a great start to the school year. The students are excited with the activities that we are doing in our new College and Career Readiness Math. Third and fourth Graders have already begun recycling in the classroom as well as the cafeteria. We encourage you to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle at home as well. That is one of our school-wide focuses this year. We look forward to seeing you at the Parent Orientation. The orientation is September 8, 2015 at 2:45 p.m.

- Ms. Chretien, Ms. Reid, & Mr. Burchard
Ms Waller, and Ms. Moncur



Kinder Korner!

Kinder Colors of the Week

Our Kindergarten students are working on learning their colors. Please join the Kinder team in wearing the specified color on Friday of each week.

August 21 **red**

August 28 **orange**

September 11 **yellow**

September 18 **green**

September 25 **blue**



Murray Elementary School Library/Information Center News

Things are off to a GREAT start at the Murray Elementary School Library/Information Center. Over the summer, an additional 500 items (valued at \$8,500) were added to our "Opening Day Collection." When Murray Elementary School opened last school year, our "Opening Day Collection" contained approximately 9,400 books, 1100 e-books, and over 250 DVD's.

All students come to the Library/Information Center once a week with their classes for an hour. At this time, a variety of books, authors, and genres of literature are introduced as well as a variety of skills are taught to support the regular classroom curriculum. Also, during this time new vocabulary words are discussed and various reading skills like drawing conclusions, summarizing, main idea, making inferences, and other Standards for the 21st Century Learner are emphasized. During the upcoming weeks, students will be given a handout that they can take and keep at home. This handout will contain passwords to our online subscription databases and taught how to use these various databases to complete research projects and assignments.

Students and parents are able to access our online catalog from home at the following link:

<http://slicclassic.dodea.edu/search~S123>

(Be sure to select the Charles P. Murray ES between Charles F. Bolden MS and Crossroad ES on the drop down menu).

I know that students are looking forward to our upcoming school Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by our Parent Teacher Organization from September 28th through October 2nd!! Also, book suggestions and recommendations are always welcome. Thanks for your continued support of the Murray ES Navigator Library /Information Center!!



Attendance/Tardy Policy

Attendance is **mandatory** and is a key factor in a student's achievement.

- Students are **required** to attend school 180 instructional days
- Family vacations and absences during standardized testing are **unexcused**
 - Monitor Plans will be implemented during all **PRE APPROVED** extended absences 10 or more days
- Written verification and DR notes are **required** for approved absences
 - Parent **must** physically sign student in for late arrivals
- **NO** student checkout during the last 30 minutes of instructional day without Principal approval
- Absent/Tardy - 5 day letter will be sent to parent, this could possibly be referred to the Student Support Team (SST)
- Absent/Tardy – 7 day letter will be sent to parent, this could possibly be referred to the Student Support Team (SST)
- Absent/Tardy – 10 day letter will be sent to parent and command will be notified to intervene



It's time to complete your School Volunteer Application for
School Year 2015/2016

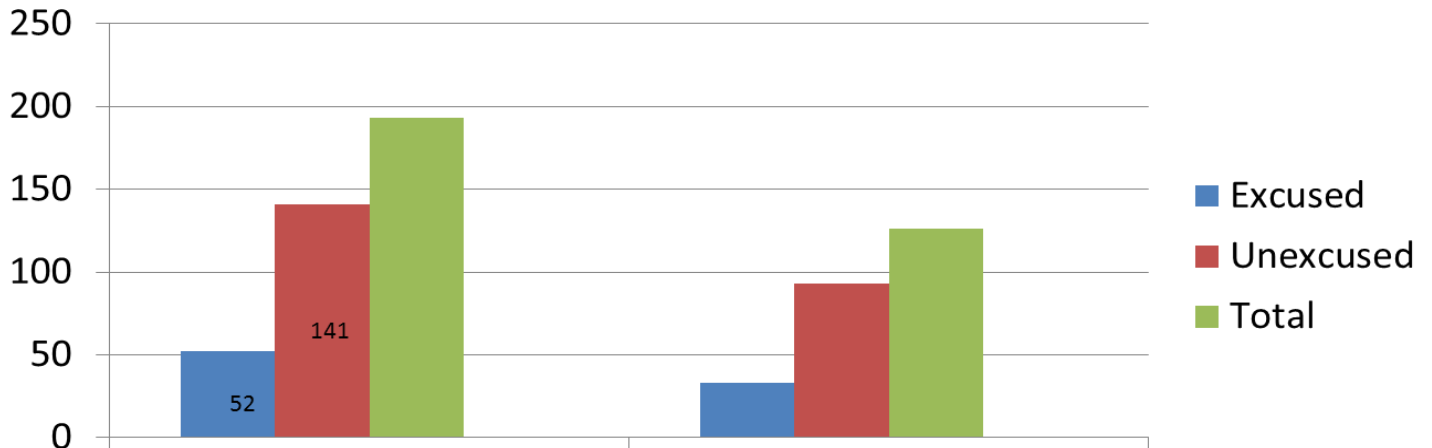
What you need to do to get started:

- Complete the School Volunteer Application
- Complete Level 1, Anti-Terrorism Training
- Turn both documents into Murray Elementary and we will do the rest

Data News!

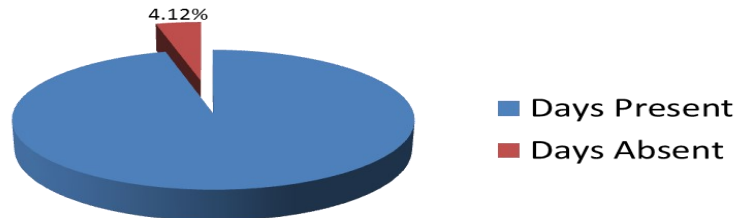
We need your help. In order to excuse your child's absence we will need a written or medical note stating why your child was absent. Below is a list of excused absences. So let's work together and decrease our unexcused absences.

- Excused Absences:
- Student Illness
 - Medical & Dental Appointments
 - Serious Illness Immediate Family
 - Death In Immediate Family
 - Fire & Flood
 - Family Circumstances Approved By Principal



Attendance

Attendance: We must work together to ensure that our students are attending school each day and receiving a quality education. The graph below shows that our average daily attendance this week is 95.88%. Our goal is to sustain the 95% attendance rate. Please ensure that your students are present at school and arrive on time. When students are not in school, they are missing valuable instructional time. Specific requirements for attendance are addressed, including what time of the day is considered tardy, full day, half day, etc.

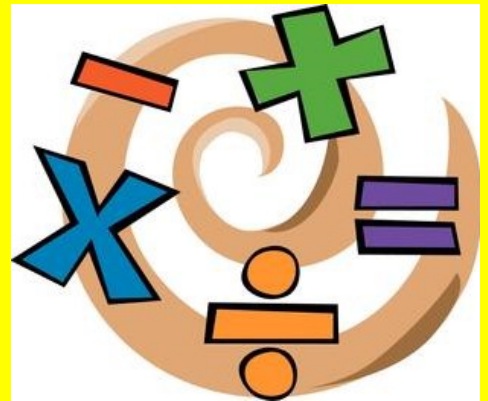


Navigator Problems of the Week

In an effort to improve our students' problem-solving skills, we have implemented a Navigator Problem of the Week program. Each week, students will have an opportunity to solve problems and practice their communication skills in mathematics.

As writers in math, our goal is to be considered advanced. We will:

- Write clear and detailed in our explanation
- Use appropriate mathematical vocabulary
- Explain operations and express our thought process
- Create clearly labeled figures, diagrams, graphs, tables, etc.



The problems of the week are listed on the next two pages. Please feel free to have your child work on them at home. Opportunities to solve the problems will also be provided within the classroom. Answer sheets may be submitted to the red and black box in the front office.

Kindergarten & First Grades

A Cookie for Me...Cookie for You!

Kindergarten – Part I

You count out 2 cookies. Then you count 3 more. How many do you **have in all**?

First Grade – Solve Part I & II

Your friend counts out 3 cookies. Then counts out 2 more. How many do you both **have combined**?

Second & Third Grades

Cookies are a Family Affair!

Grade 2 solve Part I

Grade 3 solve Parts I & II

Scenario: The Navigators are a new family at Murray Elementary School, and avid cookie eaters. There is mom, dad, and three kids. The Shoppette sells cookies fresh everyday!

Part I: Mrs. Navigator buys a package of cookies for each family member. If each package contained 4 cookies, how many cookies are **bought in all**?

Part II: If Mrs. Navigator buys packages of $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen each, how many does she **buy in all**?

Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Grades

Keeping Track of Coins and Cookie Arrays!

Grade 4 solve Part I

Grade 5 solve Parts I & II

Grade 6 solve Parts I-III

Scenario: The Shoppette sells cookies fresh everyday! You can buy them singly, or in a packages of 4 or 12. Individual cookies cost 50¢, while a 4-pack costs \$1.75, and 12-packs cost \$5.00.

Part I: If you buy 2 dozen cookies in 4-packs, What will the total cost be?

Part II: What is the least expensive way to purchase 2 dozen cookies?

Part III: How many different way can you buy 2 dozen cookies? Show all arrays. [Problem does not require cookie prices]

Fitness Connection...Fit Kids Finish First in the Classroom

The Fitness Connection...

Like adults, kids need exercise. Most children need at least an hour of physical activity every day. Regular exercise helps children

- Feel less stressed
- Feel better about themselves
- Feel more ready to learn in school
- Keep a healthy weight
- Build and keep healthy bones, muscles and joints
- Sleep better at night

As kids spend more time watching TV, they spend less time running and playing. Parents should limit TV, video game and computer time. Parents can set a good example by being active themselves. Exercising together can be fun for everyone. Competitive sports can help kids stay fit. Walking or biking to school, dancing, bowling and yoga are some other ways for kids to get exercise.



Nurse's Corner



If your child received any immunization/Hearing & Vision during summer vacation please forward a copy of the updated record to the school nurse.

Continuous School Improvement SMART Goals

Goal #1: Math

The percentage of the students scoring in the top two quarters in math will increase from 60% (90 students) to 80% (120 students) by March 2016 based on Terra Nova assessment.

Goal #2: Reading

The percentage of the students scoring in the top two quarters in reading will increase from 61% (91 students) to 80% (120 students) by March 2016 based on Terra Nova assessment.

Murray's Purpose Statement

Murray Elementary School is committed to navigating students towards excellence by providing engaging, purposeful, and rigorous learning opportunities.

DoDEA Mission

Educate, Engage, and Empower Each student to succeed in a dynamic world.



**MURRAY
ROCKS!**
Go Navigators!

R - Responsible
O - Organized
C - Cooperative
K - Kind
S - Successful

MES is the best!

Parent Feedback

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and welcomed. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to complete and return the form below. As always, please know that you can call or email the school with any issues you may have. Thanks for your support.
