

MURRAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

We had a great turnout during our first weeks of parent orientations. Our Pre -K, Kindergarten, 2nd, 5th, and 6th grade parents were able to learn more about the initiatives for our school, classroom and curriculum expectations, and ways to support students at home. This week, we will host our last set of parent orientations, The schedule for the parent orientations is below.

Parent orientation dates: (2:45-3:35 pm)

Grade 3/4: Sep 8, 2015

Grade 1: Sep 9, 2015

Please come out to the various events we have planned for this week. Murray Elementary is very interested in establishing partnerships with our parents and local community to support student achievement.

Progress reports went home on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Please review your child's progress report and contact his or her teacher if you have any questions. Thanks for all you do to support our students.

Sincerely,

Talisha Thompson
Principal



September 4, 2015
Newsletter

Dates to Remember

- ☺ **September 8,**
Grade 3/4 Parent Orientation, 2:45pm
- ☺ **September 9,** 1st
Grade Parent Orientation, 2:45pm
- ☺ **September 10,** Pop-
corn Day, 50¢/bag
- ☺ **September 13,**
Online Book fair
Opens
- ☺ **September 26,**
Green Apple Day of
Service
- ☺ **September 28-**
October 2, Book
Fair
- ☺ **October 1,** Family
Night
- ☺ **October 6,** PTO
Meeting, 5:30 pm
- ☺ **October 6,** Coffee
with the Principal,
5:00 pm
- ☺ **October 8,** End of
1st Quarter

Teachers' Corner

What's Happening Around Murray!

Second Grade

Second 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 sounds, counting to 20, and colors. Please join the Kinder team in wearing the specified color on Friday of each week.

September 11 **yellow**

September 18 **green**

September 25 **blue**

Ms. Whitlow, Ms Ebler, and Ms Chase



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 is essential to school success. However, too often students, and parents do not realize how quickly absences – excused and unexcused – can add up to academic trouble. Chronic absenteeism, missing 10% of the school year or more, or just 2-3 days every month-can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing courses and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.

#SCHOOLEVERYDAY

Attend Today



Achieve Tomorrow





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**.
- Monitoring 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.

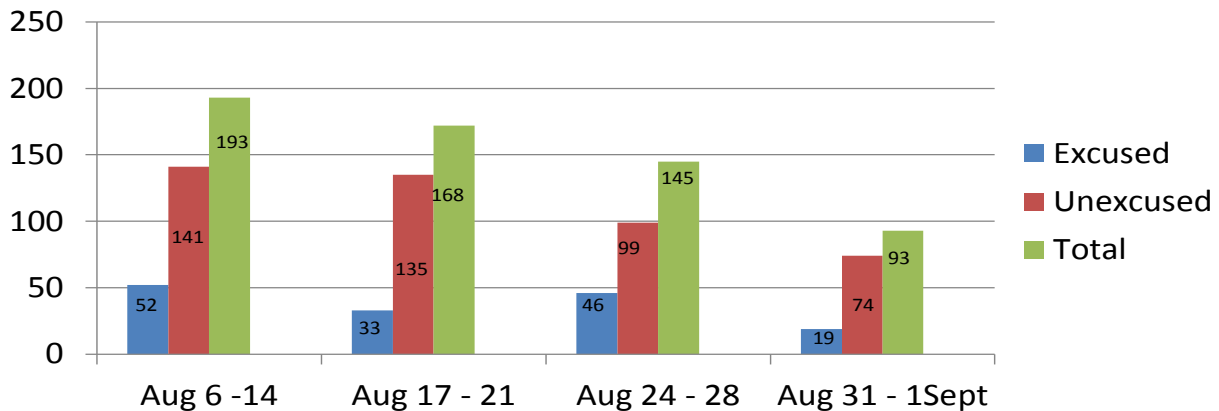
What you need to do to get started:

- 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.

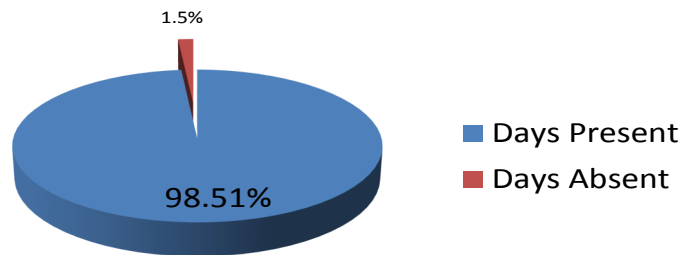
- Excused Absences:
- Student Illness
 - Medical & Dental Appointments
 - Serious Illness Immediate Family
 - Death In Immediate Family
 - Fire & Flood
 - Family Circumstances Approved By Principal



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 98.51%. Way to go Murray! 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. You can review the attendance policy on the district's website. Specific requirements for attendance are address, including what time of the day is considered tardy, full day, half day, etc.

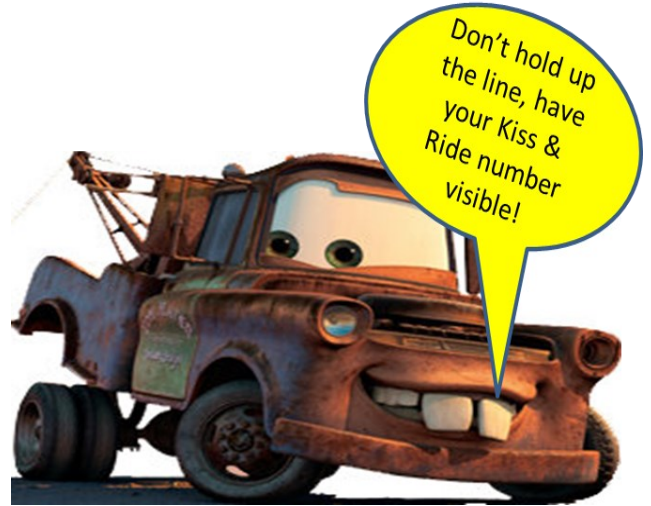
Hurry, let's get to school safe and on time.



Kiss & Ride Numbers

Kiss & Ride release time is 3:05. Students will be released by car number. Kiss & Ride only has one lane. Please do not park or leave your vehicle unattended in the Kiss & Ride lane.

Kiss & Ride yellow number tag must be visible in the front window. Parents who do not have a Kiss & Ride yellow number tag must request one from the school's main office.



Cafeteria Rules

During the meal service in the cafeteria the distribution of commercial foods in their advertised containers is **prohibited**. These foods may stay wrapped, however they must be put in a noncommercial container or bag. **Students are not allowed to share food that has been brought in by other parents.**



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.
