Welcome to the 2013-2014 School Year!

~ New Year...New Faces ~

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2013-2014 school year. We have had a lot of changes this year and with it we have a lot of new faces on our staff. Our specials teams are now shared with Hanby. Kim Perrone and Kevin Dollenmayer return to Emerson with Art and Gym and Mary Rebecca Fortman joins us for music.

This year we are housing the Gifted Self Contained program in grades 3, 4 and 5. Returning to Emerson to work with the Gifted 3rd graders is Angie Heath and Theresa Bledsoe. Brand new to the Gifted program is Mrs. Jenny Findell. She is not only a “Gifted” teacher, but she has lived and learned all over the world which makes her a great compliment to Emerson.

Also joining us this year is Annette Christman who is our Reading Intervention Specialist. Please make them welcome in our building!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Early Release 9/26
PTA MEETING 9/18
OAT Reading 3rd 10/8

Interims 9/13
PTA Emerson Olympics 9/20
School Pictures 10/09
BACK TO SCHOOL SOCIAL WAS A HIT!
Don’t forget your notes...

Please don’t forget that if your child is going home with another child (even if it is the same bus but different stop), we must have a note from both parents saying that it is acceptable from both parents. These notes are necessary for the office and bus driver. We must also have a note if the child is going home a different way. If we do not have these notes, your child will be sent home his/her normal way. This is very important in order to insure your child’s safety.

Through state funds, the Westerville City School District has implemented the Safe School Hotline (1-800-418-6423 ext. 359). This is a 24-hour-a-day service designed so callers, anonymously, can report concerns regarding student safety in the district. Help-line users receive an identification number when they call in, enabling them to call back and get an update regarding what has been done to address the situation they reported. Reports can also be made on-line at:

http://www.safeschoolhelpline.com

Achievement Record


dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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Improving student achievement is our Number #1 priority.

In order to achieve this priority, Westerville City Schools will have five “Early Release” days during the 2012-2013 school year for the purpose of staff professional development. These “Release” days will focus on meeting the goals of the district's and school's continuous improvement plans. The Elementary school division will have “Early Release” days as indicated:

9/26/13 ~ 1/16/14
2/13/14 ~ 4/10/14
Waiver days September 27th & January 10th

Safe Schools Helpline

YEARBOOK

See your pictures in print! Emerson yearbook needs photographers to take pictures during class events such as holiday parties and school events. You don’t need a fancy camera, but we do need digital images. Contact the office for more details!
PTA Play Book

Upcoming School Events

September 18th  7:00 - First PTA Meeting of the Year, Computer Room
September 20th – Emerson Olympics!

September 23rd – First Dine Out Night --- Skyline Chili! – Look for flyers in Friday Folders

The Emerson PTA is planning a busy, fun year full of many activities to support and enrich your child’s education at our favorite school! We would love to have your parent involvement, either through attendance at meetings, volunteering to help with events, or supporting our fundraising efforts. The PTA Board is looking forward to making this year the best one ever for our children and the Emerson Teachers and Staff. We know we can count on your participation and support – Emerson Families are the BEST!

WE NEED YOU!!!

Emerson Magnet PTA has “hired” a number of volunteer Chair positions including: Olympics, Baking Committee, Campbell’s Labels, Dine Out Nights, Donuts For Dads, GEM Awards, International Night, Popcorn Committee, Reflections, Scholarship Committee, Science Invention Convention, Spring Flower Sale, Market Day, International Week, Talent Show, Muffins for Moms, Teacher Appreciation Week, Monthly Teacher Appreciation Luncheons, and Year End Picnic.

A huge thank you goes out to those of you that have volunteered your time and energy to coordinate those events and committees. The positions listed above need the help of Emerson families to make this a memorable year for our school! Be looking for notices of when help will be needed. If there is something specific that you know of now that you are willing to help with in any way please contact - Alan Pate – albepate@wowway.com

Do you shop at Kroger, Giant Eagle or Meijer? You can help Emerson PTA raise funds by simply shopping! Here is how you can help:

**Kroger Community Rewards:** Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com), login using your existing registration or create a new one, the first screen that pops up is a screen to choose the organization you want to benefit, type Emerson, hit search, select our school name and address, hit submit. You will need to update every year on May 1st.

**Giant Eagle Apples for the Students:** Go to [www.gianteagle.com](http://www.gianteagle.com), click sign in, (using your existing ID or register to create one), click my account (top right), scroll down and click register now under Apples for Students, click enroll school, enter our school code 4764, and then click add. Giant Eagle will allow you to enroll multiple schools.

**Meijer Community Rewards:** Go to [www.meijer.com](http://www.meijer.com), click sign in (using your existing ID or register to create one), scroll down and click Meijer Community Rewards, fill out the form using Emerson’s Reward Code: 220563, the click submit. You can have multiple Organizations selected as beneficiaries. You will need a Meijer One Card which can be used with cash or debit card purchases.

**Emerson Spirit Wear Sale – Last few days to order!** Order online at [www.mannEstores.com/emerson](http://www.mannEstores.com/emerson) through September 14th. All orders will be online as well as all the apparel choices. Please use Emerson’s address 41 N. Vine Street as the delivery address. Items will be sent home with your child.
Westerville Schools opened the doors of the Vine Street School in March of 1896. This fanciful building was designed by prominent Ohio architect Frank Packard. (Packard also suggested the space at OSU now called the Oval in his proposal for the design of the OSU campus!) Since the opening of Vine Street School, two children carved in stone on either side of the school’s front doors have greeted the thousands of students passing through those doors.

Local artist Anthony Jacobs has made molds of the carvings of the children on what is now Emerson World Cultures Magnet School. Castings of these molds are now available for purchase with proceeds going to Westerville Elementary Boosters. Contact the office if you would like to take a piece of Westerville history home! 797-7085
From the Music Room....

My name is Mary Rebekah Fortman, and I am excited to be teaching at Emerson Elementary this year. Although it is my first year at Emerson, I am beginning my seventh year with Westerville City Schools. I am a graduate of Capital University, where I received both my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Education.

Emerson students are already very busy in the music room this year. Third graders are playing barred instruments along with a fun folk tune. Fourth graders have started playing recorders. Fifth graders learned a song from Africa and are accompanying themselves on drums and other percussion instruments. All classes are beginning a study of the composer Aaron Copland, our "Composer of the Month" for September. You may know his composition, "Hoedown", from the old "Beef: It's what's for dinner" commercial.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding music at Emerson. I look forward to working with your children this year.

"So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some form will accompany and sustain it." -Aaron Copland

Happy to be Back by Mrs. Perrone~

Greeting Emerson families!

As you might already know I am the art teacher here at Emerson for the 2013/2014 school year, and I couldn’t be happier. I began my art teaching career here in Westerville (having moved from Danbury Public School in Connecticut) at Emerson and always think of Emerson at my first Westerville home.

We have been busy in the art room creating self portraits as our first learning unit. Grade 3 students have investigated Pablo Picasso, his use of geometric shapes, and applied our math knowledge using vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines. “Drawing like and Egyptian” in grade 4 has enabled us to understand why art is important across all cultures, illustrate our names using hieroglyphics (we couldn’t find an X?) and finally tell a bit about ourselves. Andy Warhol pop art portraits using complementary colors has been a challenging yet rewarding puzzle in grade 5. The creativity all my Emerson artists have displayed is awesome, and I am looking forward to an outstanding year.
Hello Emerson families... I wanted to take a quick moment to introduce myself. My name is Kevin Dollenmayer and I am your child’s Physical Education teacher this year. The kids like to call me Mr. D. so when you hear them mention that name they are more than likely referring to me.

I graduated from The Ohio State University in December of 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education. I continued my education at Capital University where I obtained my Health Education certificate.

I began my first full time job in 1993 at St. Paul’s in Westerville. I came to Westerville City Schools in 2001 and have been in the district since then. I did spend the 2007-2008 school year at Emerson. I have worked in many buildings in the district and have worked with many wonderful children, families, and staff members.

I am looking forward to a great year! If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me through e-mail at dollenmk@wcsoh.org

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Thanks to the hard work of our students, staff and parents! For more information about the new state report card visit: [http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx)
Counseling Communicator

Welcome to a New School Year

My name is Naomi Schone and it is my privilege to serve your children and you as the Emerson Elementary School guidance counselor. As the school counselor, it is my responsibility to help maintain a physically and emotionally safe environment for our children through classroom guidance lessons, small group leadership, individual counseling/referral, and consultations with parents and teachers. The district elementary guidance plan is tied to the health curriculum, the Safe and Drug Free Schools program, and, the community wide Westerville Way Character education program. We are working together to promote a nurturing, caring, and safe environment.

Classroom Guidance

Topics for classroom guidance include anger management, conflict resolution, communication, social skills/self-esteem, celebrating diversity, academic progress and vocational aspirations. I am currently doing presentations on emotional well being Vis a Vis job performance and conflict resolution. Be sure to ask your child about how happiness relates to how well one feels about their job.

Student Groups

Special issue groups will be available to students throughout the school year on interests such as altered families, positive self-concept, social/friendship skills, grief through loss, and conflict management. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested or have requests for a specific area.

Individual Counseling

A great majority of the concerns I hear from children have to do with social skills and conflicts among peers. Other challenges children sometimes seek assistance with are: educational matters such as grades, study skills, organization, and teachers; family issues; loss of a loved one; and, individual emotional concerns. My primary objective with all counseling is to help a child feel good about him or herself and to assist them in developing a personal plan to improve what they can and to cope with what they cannot change.

As parents, you are the experts on your child. Your input is essential in providing guidance services. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments, or desire services for your child.

Violence Hurts Us All

Violent acts, even minor ones, can have a negative effect on all concerned: The person hurt, witnesses, family and friends, as well as the perpetrator. The victims of violence suffer emotional and sometimes physical injuries. Children are especially vulnerable to these negative effects. Throughout the year we will promote conflict and anger management.
**EMERSON SCHOOL YARD SALE**

Is your basement overflowing with stuff? Have you been planning on having a garage sale (for about 3 years) and just haven’t gotten around to it? **We are here to help!**

*Emerson will be having its 3rd annual School Yard Sale*  
*October 5th!*

Donate your wonderful but unwanted items for someone else to purchase at our School Yard Sale. Money raised will benefit Emerson and help to buy resources for the classrooms and professional development for our teachers.

More info to come home in Friday Folders.

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**Chess Club is Starting!**

Emerson has a Chess club which meets on specific Friday mornings in the computer lab at 8:00.

We will be starting next Friday September 20th!

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**CLUBS**

*We like ‘em, we love ‘em,*  
*We want more of ‘em!!*

We are looking for a few good men and women to sponsor an after school club! What kind of club? You tell us! Ideas... language club, sewing club, cooking club, science club, book club, crocheting club! The possibilities are limitless. Our only requirement is that it is in keeping with our goals... learn something everyday and be safe! (So, no sky-diving) Contact Ms. Jarrell if you are interested in sharing your time and talents. Thanks!
A Day in the Life... at Emerson...
A Day in the Life... at Emerson...

Emerson Learners are...

Thinkers
Try different things until we find a solution
Hello Emerson families! As I start my sixth year at Emerson I am very excited about the opportunities for growth ahead of us. As is my practice, I met with the students the first week and let them know my expectations for them each day.

First of all, I told them I expect them to be **SAFE**. We talked about what it takes to be safe and what it means to be safe at school and outside of school. We will be working with your student to help them to build in some “think time” before they act in a way that could injure themselves or others.

The second thing we discussed was my expectation that everyday they will **LEARN** something. In order to do that they have to **try their best and work hard everyday**. We talked about how some things are easier than others, but how if we stick to it we can accomplish anything we set our minds to do.

The most important thing that I shared with your child was my belief that Emerson is the best and most important school on the planet. Emerson is the best and most important school on Earth because **your child is here**. Emerson is special because you share your children with us everyday. It is our job and commitment to you to keep them safe and help them grow to be all that they can be. This is and will be a team effort. We cannot do it without you. We are a family here at Emerson. Like all families we may have conflicts or differences of opinion. Just like family, we will work through any issues that arise. Please communicate with us so we can work together to make Emerson even better!

Please take a moment and visit the ODE website to check out the new state report cards. While Emerson did very well, we are always looking to improve and increase our student’s growth. Our district as a whole did very well. Our lowest grade was a C (which indicates a year’s worth of growth) in Gifted Education and Gap Closing. Closing the achievement gap has been an area of intense focus and will continue to be in our district. The new gifted coordinator will be working extremely hard to optimize the opportunities for our gifted and talented students as well. I know for a fact that she is a bit of a perfectionist and while a C is not a bad grade, it just won’t do!

Please help your student memorize their lunch number. This number is their ID which can be found on their receipt from registration. If you need the number let the teacher know and we will send it home.

I look forward to working as a team to help every child meet their potential!

**Happy New Year!**