

*O'Dea Core Knowledge Elementary
August Newsletter for Families and Students*



Look what is hatching ...



Dear Families:



Welcome back! We have been looking forward to having our halls filled with your children...their laughter...their smiles and the wonderful energy that they bring into our building.

It has been a wonderful summer and the kids and I enjoyed a trip to Chicago and many weekends up in Estes Park. We split our time between the city and mountains and it was a wonderful balance. I have enjoyed my time off...but look forward to another amazing year at O'Dea Core Knowledge Elementary!

We have a few new staff members that have joined our team this year. We would like to introduce Ms. Kathy Perkins (Literacy), Mrs. Kelli Hoyberg-Nielsen (Full day Kindergarten), Mrs. Sara Cawley (Half day Kindergarten), Mrs. Patti Zamora (1st grade), Mrs. Janelle Willis (3rd grade), Mrs. Sarah Doing (Special Education) and Ms. Dianne Whitaker (Special Education). Please feel free to stop in and say hello to our newest members!

If you are a new family and I did not have the opportunity to meet you during our Popsicle Party or registration, please feel free to stop into the office so that we can connect!

As each year rolls around, we are always reflecting on what went well the previous year and what we can fine tune for the upcoming year to make it even better. As we reflect on the many things that went well last year...we would like to remind you that:



Reminders:

1. Our school hours have changed to 8:40 – 3:18. First bell will ring for students at 8:35.
2. We will continue to offer recess before lunch to have our students burn off some energy...and still have plenty of time to eat their lunches. This system has allowed for a more peaceful and smooth transition back to the classrooms.
3. We will still be using our colored lunch bracelet system to ensure that students receive the lunch that they ordered.
4. Our drop off zone has been resurfaced and ready for the safe drop off of our students. Please use that area as a drop off zone/pull through zone only. It is not to be used for parking. We encourage families to use the open spaces available along Princeton Avenue to park their cars if necessary.



On a new note:

1. O'Dea will be moving to using a “color coded specials schedule”. The goal of this new color schedule is to ensure that all students have equal access to all specials. For example, students who historically had Art on Mondays, missed multiple sessions of Art due to the amount of days off on Mondays. This color-coded system will rotate the days on a Red...Blue...Green and White schedule to ensure that all classes are evenly distributed. The days will be mapped out and you can see the schedule on each month's lunch calendar that goes home. Each classroom teacher should also have a system to ensure that families are aware of which specials will be enjoyed each week.
2. We will also be implementing an Enrichment block every morning for thirty-five minutes (8:50 – 9:25). This Enrichment block will provide opportunities for students

to receive extended instruction or extra support in areas of need. We will be stretching children up to meet advanced goals and supporting students at all levels.

3. As we focus on student safety, our front doors will be opened at 8:00 for students who eat breakfast and all other students are to be dropped off on our playground or side areas for the upper grades (4th and 5th). Teachers will open their side doors for students to enter when the first bell rings at 8:35.

I will be sending home a newsletter the last week of every month and you will receive another information packed newsletter next week for September. Please take a moment each month to review the newsletter, check out our upcoming events, and read about what is going on at O'Dea Core Knowledge Elementary. These newsletters will also be posted on our website for home access as well.

As always, if you have any questions about anything please feel free to contact the front office at 488.4450. We are more than happy to help!

Once again, welcome welcome back!

Warmly,

Laurie

Upcoming dates to add to the calendar:

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| August 19 th - | First Day Back! |
| August 27 th - | Back to School Night |
| September 2 nd - | Walk/Bike to School Day Kick Off |
| September 7 th - | Labor Day - No School |
| September 14 th - | PTA 6:30 p.m. |
| September 15 th - | Picture Day |
| September 23 - 25 | ECO Week |

