

UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2016

Fri., 9/9	PTO Fall Fundraiser Kick Off
Mon., 9/12	Woodruff School Fall Pictures PTO Meeting – Seabrook Media Center – 6:30PM
Tues., 9/13	Moore School Back To School Night – 6:30PM
Wed., 9/14	Family Night – No Homework
Wed., 9/14 and Thurs., 9/15	Grade 3 MAP Testing
Tues., 9/20	Board of Education Meeting – 7PM Woodruff School Library
Tues., - Thurs. 9/20-22	Grades 5 – 8 MAP Testing
Thurs., 9/22	Seabrook School Back To School Night – 6:30PM
Fri., 9/23	BLUE & GOLD DAY
Mon., 9/26	PTO Fall Fundraiser Ends
Tues., 9/27	Grade 4 MAP Testing
Wed., 9/28 and Thurs., 9/29	Grades 2 and 4 MAP Testing
Thurs., 9/29	Woodruff School Back To School Night – 6:30PM
Fri., 9/30	Moore School Fall Pictures

Welcome Back: We welcome all students and parents back from the summer vacation to another exciting school year. Our administrators and teachers are excited to work with your children to assist them in their pursuit of academic excellence. Our schools cannot be successful without a collaborative effort among the parents, teachers and administrators. Through collaborative support between home and school, our students can achieve success and reach their potential. Our teachers are committed to inspiring your children by providing them with the opportunity to succeed. Each year brings excitement of having our students enter the buildings ready to learn and embark on a successful school year. On behalf of our teachers, staff, and Board of Education, I thank you for your commitment to supporting our schools in the community.

First Few Days: We ask your patience on the first few days of school as buses tend to run late during the first week as they get acclimated to the stop. There are many unpreventable factors that go into this. In the morning, it is usually a young child that is struggling to board the bus for the first time. In the afternoon, it is because hundreds of students are trying to remember which bus they board to take home. In addition, there are traffic issues that often impact our pick-up and delivery process. We do anticipate this, and all of our schools are well versed in their arrival and dismissal plans.

School Forms/Information: During the first week of school important information will be coming home with your children. Please take time to review the information and return all forms needing a signature to the school off attendance.

Back-to-School Nights: The back-to-school nights in the district are listed below:

Seabrook School – Thurs., Sept. 22 at 6:30

Moore School – Tues., Sept. 13 at 6:30

Woodruff School – Thurs., Sept. 29 at 6:30

The back-to-school night is an opportunity to meet your children's teachers and find out more about the educational programs and expectations of our schools.

Full Day Pre-School: Once again we are offering a full day pre-school program. In its inception last year we enjoyed much success. The more students we can serve at the pre-school level the greater impact this will have on their overall academic, social and emotional development in their formative years.

PTO: The Upper Deerfield Township PTO meets the first Monday of each month in the Seabrook Media Center. These meetings begin at 6:30PM. All are welcome to attend and support the PTO in their mission to assist all our schools in the district. The first meeting of the 2016-2017 school year will be held on Monday, September 12.

Board of Education: The Upper Deerfield Township Board of Education meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted in the calendar, at 7:00 PM. This year the meetings will be held in the Woodruff School Library. The September 2016 meeting will be held on September 20.

Parent Portal: Parents can access their child's grades and missing assignments by way of the GENESIS Parent Portal. If you haven't received this information and need a password, please contact the Moore School or Woodruff School to obtain this information. The password from last year remains in effect. You can view assignments on the website under each teacher's webpage.

Family Night: Upper Deerfield Township School District recognizes the importance of family and spending time together. This month we have designated Wednesday, September 14, as family night. No homework will be assigned in the district on this night.

School Pictures: Sept. 12 – Woodruff School, Sept. 30 – Moore School, Oct. 27 – Seabrook School

Being at School: Regular attendance in school sets up a good pattern for your child's entire school career. Show him/her that school comes first by trying to only use days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, schedule routine doctor and dental appointments for after school or over school breaks.

School Breakfast: Each day breakfast is available for all our students in our schools. Please make sure your child starts the day with breakfast either at home, or in the classrooms and cafeterias in our schools.

Bus Safety:

- All students who ride the bus, as required by law, are to remain seated at all times with their seatbelts on. There are no exceptions and students who do not adhere to the bus rules and bus safety will be subject to disciplinary action which can include a loss of bus riding privileges.
- Students are reminded to arrive at their assigned bus stop and wait for the bus in an orderly manner. Running, pushing, playing games or doing something to put yourself or others in danger is prohibited and students violating this code of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.
- For safety reasons, it is necessary for bus students to adhere to being picked up and dropped off at their regularly scheduled stop. If it is necessary for a change, the school office must be notified. No student or parent should make arrangements with the bus driver to change a stop. Bus changes were to be submitted in August. The next opportunity for a change is in January. If the office is not notified of a change or the change is unable to be accommodated due to a late notice, students will be dropped off at their assigned stop.

Safety Matters: Parents are reminded to adhere to the drop off and pick up zones at times of arrival (7:40 – 8:00) and dismissal (2:15)

Some Tips for Parents on Getting Ready for School:

1. **Set a daily routine and keep to it.** Schedule your time for homework, activities, dinner, bedtime and planning for the next day prior to going to sleep each evening.
2. **Plan and shop for healthy breakfasts and lunches a week in advance.** This will save you precious time and prevent much stress in the long run!
3. **Save time on those busy school mornings by preparing your child's clothes a week ahead of time, already paired.** Place a pair of socks, underwear, a shirt, and matching bottoms together in the drawer so that your child can easily grab a stack and go.
4. **Support positive study habits early!** Create a homework center—a specific area in the house where your child can do homework each evening. Make sure that it's in a quiet place and stocked with enough supplies, such as pencils, erasers, paper, a folder or two, and a calculator.
5. **Pack light—a backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's body weight.** Always use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles and may increase curvature of the spine.
6. **Prepare your child for social situations in the elementary school classroom.** A certain level of social anxiety is normal for elementary school aged children. Teach him/her to introduce him/herself and make friends: "Hi, my name is ----; what's yours?" If he or she is older, role play various social scenarios with him/her—from sharing classroom supplies to encounters with older kids.
7. **Keep encouraging literacy at home.** Read frequently with your children and make frequent trips to your local library.
8. **If your child is going to be riding the bus to school for the first time, be sure to talk about bus safety.** It's also a good time to reinforce general school safety rules including who he/she should and shouldn't talk to, and when he/she should and shouldn't get off the school bus (when you or a guardian is not there waiting to pick him up).
9. **Parent involvement in education is important throughout elementary and middle school!** Talk to your child's teacher regularly about his educational and social development or, if your schedule permits, volunteer your time in the classroom or become an active participant in your school's PTO.

School District Website: www.udts.org Please use our website to remain updated on the events in our schools. You can put money in your child's lunch account, review board meeting notes, visit a teacher webpage for information, and access your child's grades in the parent portal of the GENESIS program). Community members are welcome at all of our student performances, athletic events, PTO meetings and Board of Education meetings. You may contact the Woodruff School office at 856-455-2267 ext. 3201. We welcome your suggestions as to how the district can better serve your needs.

Electronic Equipment at School:

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT STUDENT CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN SCHOOL AND DESIGNATED SCHOOL ZONES. THEY ARE ONLY PERMITTED FOR AFTER SCHOOL USE AND AFTER SCHOOL EMERGENCIES. THE USE OF A CELL PHONE DURING SCHOOL HOURS, INCLUDING ON THE BUS TO AND FROM SCHOOL, AND DURING A SCHOOL FUNCTION IS NOT PERMITTED (refer to student handbook section titled - "Electronic Equipment"). IF A STUDENT USES A CELL PHONE OR OTHER ELECTRIC COMMUNICATON DEVICE DURING THE TIMES THAT ARE NOT PERMISSABLE, THE STUDENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Student Dress Code: Please make sure your child is in compliance with our district dress code per the student handbook. One area of concern is with the pants not being worn properly. Boys in particular are wearing pants below the hip/buttock area exposing undergarments and skin. This is not only a dress code violation, but offensive as well and this could be cause for harassment. For dress code and other items related to the code of conduct, please be sure to read the student handbook.

Quotes Worth Quoting:

"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." - Albert Einstein –

"You learn something every day if you pay attention." - Ray LeBlond-

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." - Sydney J. Harris-

A Great School Year for 2016-2017: We are enthusiastic and motivated to make this another great year for our students in Upper Deerfield Township School District. Let's all work together to make this year better than it was last year!