

HOWARD

DRAGONS

Howard Elementary 1611 North York Street, Dearborn, MI 313-827-6350

October 24' Newsletter

Happy Autumn!

Greetings Howard Families,

We hope you and your loved ones are doing well and have settled into the new school year! Chatting with so many of you this past month has been a pleasure, as students have transitioned back into the new school year relatively smoothly! It was also great to see so many of our students and their families this first month!

As we transition into the new school year, our focus is Social Emotional Learning with daily check-ins and activities. We also held a building-wide assembly to share Howard's expectations/norms with all our students, addressing bullying prevention! Please review the [Howard PBIS Matrix](#) to help support us at home with reviewing appropriate and expected school behavior. Please support us by speaking to your child about the importance of always keeping their hands to themselves, as this falls under the three main Howard Habits of being RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, AND SAFE. Please remember to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Open communication is vital! We appreciate your teamwork in advance.

We are also excited to continue implementing the initiatives we began a couple of years ago, including weekly STEAM enrichment for all students in grades K-5 and student spotlight. Student Spotlight gives EVERY student at Howard a chance to be celebrated and appreciated. Furthermore, during the weekly student spotlight, each student will have an opportunity to share authentic information about who they are; this includes culture and family backgrounds (a poster template will come home



when it is your child's turn). We encourage parents/guardians to work on this template with students when it is their turn to shine! :-)

Finally, please note that the i-Ready assessment is completed; Howard is pleased to continue to provide the "My Path" program as an additional resource through the i-Ready program to all students. I-Ready My Path instruction offers online lessons that motivate students on their paths to proficiency and growth. Each student's personalized pathway in math and reading is based on their performance on the i-Ready Diagnostic to meet students where they are in their personalized learning journey. Please support us at home by ensuring your child logs into i-Ready weekly to reach their maximum potential. Your child's teacher will share more information regarding this.

We look forward to a great school year; please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Take care and stay connected!
Mirvat Sabbagh

School Year Calendar

Below is the link to the 24-25' school calendar
[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

Attendance

Please call the attendance line if your child will be absent at 313-827-6351 or enter it in Parent Connect. The first bell is at 8:55 am, and the tardy bell is at 9:00 am. Instruction begins at 9:00 am. *Please note that if your child is sick, we ask you to keep them home; however, please refrain from scheduling non-urgent appointments, events, and **vacations** during*

school days. [Please review this document to understand when to keep your child at home due to illness.](#) Your child's presence directly impacts their social, emotional, and academic growth and success. We kindly request that you refrain from signing your child out past 3:30 unless it is urgent. If you need to sign your child out for a doctor's appointment, please contact the school in the morning and inform the office/teacher so we can prepare. Thank you...

Important Dates:

- October 1st- No School for all students
- October 2nd - Count Day
- October 9th - Fall Picture Day
- October 11th-PTA/Parent Mtg.@ 9:15 AM
- October 16th- District Care to the Core Day (students will be engaging in extra activities this day to celebrate)
- October 22nd- PTA Bake Sale (sponsored by kindergarten parents) during school hours, all items are \$1.
- October 25th - ½ Day, Dismissal @ 12:05
- October 25th-PTA Fall Bash & Trunk or Treat (more details to follow)
- October 31st- Students may come to school wearing their costumes, no face masks, weapons, or fake blood. Outdoor Halloween Parade (weather permitting; more details to follow)

Traffic/Safety

N. York St. is a one-way street and DRIVE-UP LANE driving southbound during arrival and dismissal. **Please do not park your vehicle and leave it unattended in the DRIVE-UP LANE of N. York St. & Lawrence St. Remain in your vehicle.**

- Outdoor Recess
 - Students should wear shoes that are appropriate and safe for playing. We recommend sneakers. Sandals should be closed-toe with a strap on the heel.
- Morning Arrival
 - **All students should not arrive earlier than 8:50 am** (unless your child is in Kid's Club or is joining for breakfast at 8:30 am).
 - All students line-up outside unless the windchill is below 20 degrees.

Please make sure your child dresses appropriately.

PTA News:

Information on how to sign-up to be a PTA member if you have not already done so is found at <https://howard.memberhub.com/store>, you can also follow us on instagram @ptahoward and on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/howardschoolpta>.

PTA events in October:

- October 11th-PTA/Parent Mtg.@ 9:15 AM
- October 22nd- PTA Bake Sale (sponsored by kindergarten parents)
- October 25th-PTA Fall Bash & Trunk or Treat (more details to follow)

Student Expectations/SEL Support

- Students and staff recently reviewed our Howard Positive Behavior Expectations Matrix. The Howard school community has pledged to be respectful, responsible and safe. In September, we had a schoolwide assembly where we reviewed expectations/norms and did the pledge together.
- Please view our [Howard PBIS Matrix](#) in order to understand the expectations to behave respectfully, responsibly, and safely within our school building and community.
- All classroom teachers have a positive reinforcement system in place to reward positive choices, while ensuring reteaching is taking place for unwanted behaviors using Class Dojo as one of the tools.
- Please note that our School Social Worker, Ms. Georgia Kaiafas, is available for support. Ms. Kaiafas' [October Newsletter](#) is linked in order to contact her personally. We hope you have an [Optimistic October!](#)

