

HOWARD

DRAGONS

February 25' Newsletter



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

Greetings Howard Families,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and staying warm, safe, and healthy! This past month has been very productive and busy for staff and students as we took advantage of the fact that we were recharged and energized after the long winter break! Our students engaged in student-led spirit days, and students in grades 3-5 also participated in spelling bee competitions; it was a fun challenge for them! Staff is also excited about inviting parents to a "Donut with Grownups" drop-in in your child's classroom on February 14! Check in the "important dates" section for times.

As we approach the half-year mark of school, seeing how far our students have come is impressive! Please take a moment to acknowledge your child's growth and validate how much they have grown. Celebrating growth helps to improve morale, confidence, and stamina, leading to increased success for all.

It is imperative to keep the momentum going; you can support us by ensuring your child gets to school on time, refraining from picking up your child early or allowing them to be absent for non-urgent issues. Please make sure they are resting and getting enough sleep each night. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns. Your feedback is important to us; you are our partners in helping your child reach their maximum potential- socially, emotionally, and academically.

We hope to see you on February 14th!

Thank you, and stay connected!
Mirvat Sabbagh
Principal

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 your child for you and avoid classroom disruptions. Thank you for your support and understanding!*

School Year Calendar:

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

Important Dates:

- The PTA will begin selling Friendship Grams from February 3rd to 7th. (The Grams will be distributed on February 14th.) The sale will include sticker decals for water bottles, computers, and other items.
- February 5th-PTA-Family Skate Night at United Skates of America 6:00-8:30 pm
- February 11th- Parent Meeting/PTA Mtg. @9:15 AM
- February 12th- Count Day
- February 14th- PTA sponsored in-classroom "Donuts with grown-ups" drop-in any time between these

- February 17th- No School: President's Day
 - February 20th-PBIS assembly in the afternoon for students
 - February 25th-No School: Professional Development
 - February 26th-PTA Bake Sale, sponsored by 3rd gr. Students-all items are \$1
 - February 28th-(potentially Ramadan starts)
- We wish all those families who observe Ramadan a happy and blessed holiday. For students fasting during Ramadan, please note that children go outside for their entire lunch period, weather permitting (so they will not enter the cafeteria). We will encourage students to take a book to read and/or a notebook with an activity to work on outdoors if they would like so they do not exert too much energy. Students in grades K-2 need a parent to contact the teacher to confirm that the child has permission to fast.

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 car.**

- 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.
 - Please make sure your child brings hats, gloves, and jackets (as well as snow boots and pants if they want to play in the snow). We recommend labeling all clothing and items on the inside.
- Morning Arrival
 - **All students should arrive no earlier than 8:50 a.m. (unless your child is in Kid's Club or is joining for breakfast at 8:30 a.m.).**All students line up outside unless the windchill is below 20 degrees.

PTA News:

Information on how to sign up to be a PTA member if you have not already done so can be found at <https://howard.memberhub.com/store>; you can also follow us on Instagram @howarddragonspta and

Please follow our PTA Howard Instagram
[@Howarddragonspta](#)

The PTA thanks you for your generosity and support during last month's 2nd grade-sponsored bake sale. Friendship gram sales will take place from February 3rd to 7th. Friendship grams are sticker decals for water bottles, computers, etc. Skate Night/family fun night will occur on February 5th from 6-8:30 p.m. at United Skates of America. 100% of admission fees will go to the PTA.

Student Expectations/SEL Support

- Students and staff continue reviewing our [Howard PBIS Matrix](#), which promotes respectful, responsible, and safe behaviors. Classroom teachers use positive reinforcement programs to reward positive behavior and reteach when unwanted behaviors occur.
- Dearborn Public Schools offers Care Solace, a free & confidential service for families seeking mental health or substance use support. Available 24/7/365 in any language, Care Solace connects you with treatment options tailored to your needs. To access Care Solace, visit www.caresolace.com/dearborn or contact Ms. Kaiafas, our School Social Worker, for support or assistance.
- Please view Ms. Kaiafas' February Newsletter [here](#). Click on the following link for daily ideas on how to enjoy a [Friendly February](#).