

Cruiser Chronicles

The Official Newsletter of Groveport Madison Schools



📅 Mark Your Calendars

- **Wednesday, Aug. 20:** School resumes for grades 1-9
- **Thursday, Aug. 21:** School resumes for grades 10-12
- **Monday, Sept. 1:** No School, Labor Day
- **Wednesday, Sept. 10:** 2-hour late start
- **Wednesday, Sept. 10:** Board of Education Mtg.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 8:** 2-hour late start
- **Wednesday, Oct. 8:** Board of Education Mtg.

📁 Parent Portal now available

Studies confirm that parental involvement is critical to student academic success. Research shows that students with parents who are actively engaged in their education have better study habits, higher grades, better attendance, and lower rates of suspension. Our newly available Parent Portal is a way to allow parents access to multiple areas of their student's educational life.

Not only does the Parent Portal enhance communication between the school and the parent, but it also allows students to access their own information. Parents can set up an account over a secure internet connection for their children only. Students will see only their own information.

Users will have access to the following information through the Parent Portal:

School Information – Your student's assigned school name, address and phone number is displayed for your convenience.

Bus Routes – Available by mid-August, times and locations of bus pick up and drop off will be displayed.

Progress Book Link – This system allows access to student grades, assignments, assessments, discipline, absences, and class schedules.

Recent News – Current school news articles are available for viewing.

Lunch Account Information – View lunches purchased and account balances.

Online Fee Payments – Create an EZPay account to submit online payments for lunches, school fees, etc.

Upcoming Events – View the school's current events calendar.

Log on to our Parent Portal today and become an academic partner in your student's learning. Find the link on our website's home page at gocruisers.org.

📁 New school year is an opportunity for families to partner with school staff

Thoughts of the first day of school can come with mixed emotions. Parents may look forward to having their child back on a more structured schedule, while students may have the jitters and worry about starting classes in a new building. Participating in our Meet the Teacher Events is a great way to ease the transition and encourage the parent and student participation that is critical to a successful school experience.

Held with families in mind, Meet the Teacher Events (see schedule of Event dates on Page 2) are an opportunity for our schools to open the doors to parents and students in a more informal atmosphere. It is also a great opportunity to establish relationships between families and school staff early on.

Parents are welcome to view the classroom with their child, helping to ease any anxiety they may have about the upcoming school year and start the new year on a positive note.

New to the district? Our Central Enrollment Office processes all new student enrollments. Parents may schedule an appointment for enrollment at our Administrative Office, 5940 Clyde Moore Drive, Groveport by calling (614) 491-8288. Enrollment documentation and instructions can be found on our website at gocruisers.org/enrollment.aspx.



The following documentation is required for enrollment:

- Completed K-12 Enrollment Packet (also available at all school offices, the Administrative Office, or the Columbus Public Library branch, 3980 S. Hamilton Road)
- Child's original birth certificate
- Current mortgage or lease
- One current utility bill
- Photo ID of parent or legal guardian
- Custody or adoption papers, if applicable
- Immunization records
- Resident Affidavit, if applicable
- Transcript or most recent report card

Call (614) 491-8288 to schedule your appointment or to get answers to questions about enrolling.

📁 New school hours

Elementary Schools:

9:00 AM – 3:40 PM
Bus Drop off at 8:45 AM

Middle Schools:

8:10 AM – 2:50 PM
Bus Drop off at 7:55 AM

High School:

7:30 AM – 2:10 PM
Bus Drop off at 7:15 AM



📁 Busing returns

With the passage of the district's recent bond/levy request, busing of the high school students will return this year. By mid-August, bus route information, including, bus number, pick up and drop off locations and times will be available on our website at gocruisers.org. Parents will need their child's student ID number to access bus route information. The student ID number may be obtained by calling your building's secretary after August 1.

➤ Richard Playko retires after 42 years with the district

After 42 years with Groveport Madison Schools, administrator and dean of students, Richard Playko retired in July. Mr. Playko was a devoted educator who spent his entire professional career working with students and parents. Over his long tenure with the district, he garnered a wealth of experience working in multiple positions within the district. He will be greatly missed by both friends and coworkers.



Richard Playko

A graduate of Ohio University, Mr. Playko began his career with Groveport Madison in 1972 teaching World History and Government at the high school, while also coaching football and baseball. In 1979, Mr. Playko joined Middle School North as an assistant principal and in 1982 was promoted to principal.

After spending four years as principal, Mr. Playko moved on to work in the district's Administrative Office as the director of pupil personnel. Aside from returning as an administrator to both the junior high and high schools during the split sessions days, he has remained there since.

During his extensive career, Mr. Playko has been honored with multiple awards, including the Martha Jennings Leadership Award given by Capital University. Most recently, he was unanimously selected by the Ohio School Boards Association to receive the Exemplary

School Employee Award.

What can be said about a man who for 42 years dedicated his heart and soul to one district? If you asked Mr. Playko, he'd say, "I am where I am because of the great people around me."

Groveport Madison Schools' superintendent, Bruce Hoover stated, "His contributions to our district, his dedication to the job, and his mild-mannered approach to handling students with problems over the span of his career have earned

him the admiration and respect of thousands of students and co-workers at Groveport Madison."

Others agree. Colleague, John Hurd surmised Mr. Playko "was a true educational professional. Every decision he made put students first."

Mr. Playko's assistant, Elaine Dawson, has nothing but praise for her former boss. Elaine says, "He is the most kind-hearted, genuine person I have ever known. His heart has always been in the right place – on the side of kids. Every work decision he ever made he did what he felt was best for kids."

Mr. Playko says he's looking forward to the next stage in his life, spending more time with family, as well as, his favorite leisure-time activities, including golfing, fishing, and hunting.

➤ Kindergarten, here we come!

To help our kindergarteners begin their first year of school successfully, we follow a staggered schedule for the first week of kindergarten classes only. By having only half of the class attend each day, teachers have an opportunity to assess the students individually, calm fears, and provide the warmth and security that each child needs.

In early August, kindergarten families will be sent a letter with the date their child is to start school. Children will attend only one day the first week (either August 20 or 21). August 25 will be the first day all kindergarteners report to school. Please direct questions to staff at individual buildings.



➤ Back to School

Teachers in the elementary schools are using a common school supply list again this year. That list, along with middle school supply lists and the school calendar are available on our website at gocruisers.org/backtoschool.aspx.

➤ Meet-the-Teacher!

Start the new school year off by meeting teachers and staff. Event details are listed below.

Asbury Elementary
Principal Jim Sullivan
4-6:00 PM, August 19

Dunloe Elementary
Principal Naim Sanders
5-6:30 PM, August 18

Glendening Elementary
Principal Curt Brogan
4-5:30 PM, August 19

Groveport Elementary
Principal April Bray
4-5:30 PM, August 26

Madison Elementary
Principal Tricia Faulkner
3:30-5 PM, August 19

Sedalia Elementary
Principal Matt DeCastro
5-6:00 PM, August 14

Middle School Central
Principal Milton Folson
5:30-7 PM, August 18

Middle School North
Principal Brandy Grieves
5-7:00 PM, August 18

Middle School South
Principal Darren Fillman
6-7:30 PM, August 18

High School
Principal Aric Thomas
6-8:00 PM, August 18

➤ New administrators looking forward to a new school year

April Bray, Groveport Elementary Principal

April Bray was officially hired as principal after serving as the school's interim principal for most of the last school year. A long time employee of the district, Mrs. Bray has a wealth of experience in education, which serves her well as principal. She joined the district as a high school teacher in 1997, where she taught both Special Education Math and English. More recently, Mrs. Bray worked at the Administrative Office for the past eight years in the Department of Curriculum and School Improvement in charge of Title I, ESL, Federal Programs, as well as, Testing Coordinator.

After earning her undergraduate degree from Capital University, Mrs. Bray went on to earn her Master's degree in Administrative and Principal Certification from the University of Dayton.

Residents of Reynoldsburg, Mrs. Bray and her husband are parents of three children.

Dr. Milton Folson, MSC Principal

Dr. Milton Folson comes to Groveport Madison with a range of professional experiences. In his most recent assignment, Dr. Folson served as a principal with Northeastern Local Schools. Prior to that, he was an assistant principal with Springfield City Schools, Licking Heights Local Schools,

and Pickerington Local Schools. He also has experience as a Social Studies and Science teacher. Dr. Folson transitioned into education after holding several roles assisting with clinical and industrial research at The Ohio State University's Comprehensive Cancer Center and Boehringer Ingelheim-Roxane Laboratories.

Dr. Folson recently completed his Doctorate in Leadership with Creighton University. He holds a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati, a Bachelor's in Middle Childhood Education from Ohio University, and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Franklin University.

Dr. Folson resides in Pickerington with his wife and two children.

Will Kirby, GMHS Assistant Principal

Will Kirby joins the Groveport Madison high school team with 10 years of experience spanning multiple roles. Most recently, Mr. Kirby served the district as the Title I Coordinator and District Testing Coordinator. Prior to joining the Groveport team, he provided services to school districts around Ohio as an Innovation Specialist with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. In that role, he worked with 25 schools to implement programs as a part of Ohio's Race to the Top grant.

Mr. Kirby has nearly six years of experience teaching mathematics. He began his career at Marysville High School and also taught at Eldorado High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. After earning his bachelor's degree from Ohio University in Integrated Mathematics, Mr. Kirby furthered his education at The Ohio State University by earning his master's degree in Educational Administration.

Naim Sanders, Dunloe Elementary Principal

Newly hired principal Naim Sanders is a native of Columbus. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Butler University and a Master's degree in Education Leadership from the University of Dayton. Over the past 13 years, Mr. Sanders has served as a teacher, principal, professor for Notre Dame College and an Education Consultant for the Ohio Department of Education in the Office of Exceptional Children.

Mr. Sanders is focused on teaming with teachers, staff, and parents to increase student achievement, cultivate a safe learning environment and enhance community support to ensure a high quality education for all students at Dunloe.

Mr. Sanders is a proud husband and father and resides with his family in Reynoldsburg.

➤ 2014-2015 School Calendar

★ First and Last Day for Students

July 14	No School	End of Nine Weeks	August 14
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	45 Minute Early Dismissal	Interim Reports Home	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
No School Teacher Duty Day 2 Hour Late Start			
Within this calendar there are 2 Parent-Teacher Conference Days to be announced by each building.			

September 14	October 14	November 14	December 14
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

January 15	February 15	March 15	April 15
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

May 15	June 15	July 15	August 15
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

- 8/11 - 8/13 - New Teachers
- 8/14 - 8/18 - All Area Teachers
- 8/19 Work Day - In Buildings
- 8/20 Opening Day of School
- 9/1 Labor Day - No School
- 9/10 Two Hour Late Start
- 9/19 Interim Reports Home
- 10/8 Two Hour Late Start
- 10/16 No School - Teacher Release Day
- 10/17 No School - COTA Day
- 10/24 End 1st Nine Weeks (45 days)
- 11/4 No School - Waiver Day
- 11/25 Student Early Dismissal
- 11/26-11/28 No School - Thanksgiving
- 12/5 Interim Reports Home
- 12/10 Two Hour Late Start
- 12/19 Student Early Dismissal
- 12/22-1/2/15 No School - Winter Vacation
- 1/14 Two Hour Late Start
- 1/16 End 2nd Nine Weeks (47 days)
- 1/19 No School - Martin Luther King Day
- 2/11 No School - Waiver Day
- 2/16 No School - President's Day
- 2/17 No School - Teacher Release Day
- 2/20 Interim Reports Home
- 3/20 End 3rd Nine Weeks (42 days)
- 4/2 Student Early Dismissal
- 4/3 No School - Good Friday
- 4/6-4/10 No School - Spring Vacation
- 5/1 Interim Reports Home
- 5/13 Two Hour Late Start
- 5/25 No School - Memorial Day
- 6/3 Last Day of Classes K-12
- Last Day for Teachers
- 6/7 - High School Graduation

Get it: This calendar is available to download at gorcruisers.org

➤ Keeping promises



**Superintendent
Bruce Hoover**

Welcome back to what is sure to be a great new school year! It is this time that is most exciting for our students and staff because each new year holds the promise of being better than the last. This promise

is built upon past promises; promises we intend to keep.

At the end of this past year, our school district made a promise to our community to create new learning opportunities for students that will enable them to be better prepared to enter the workforce or pursue a college degree. We have begun to fulfill this promise by initiating a realignment of our programs at the

high school into learning pathways that will afford our students the opportunity to participate in studies directly linked to their career interests. Students will be able to investigate and accelerate learning in these fields of study allowing them to receive credentialing and early college credit prior to graduation. Initial pathway opportunities will be made available beginning in the fall of 2015.

Additionally, early learning opportunities are being explored to improve student preparedness and make preschool an affordable option for our parents. Many parents are paying \$800 to \$900 per month to provide preschool instruction for their child. We recognize the financial burden this places on families and that an alternative learning option is needed. With the use of technology, a digital curriculum, and a strong parent partnership, we can develop an affordable preschool

opportunity that can better prepare students for kindergarten and reduce the risk of failure for all students.

Finally, as active partners with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission we are working to quickly move through the selection and accounting phase of the building of our new high school. This new facility will provide the space and educational conditions necessary to improve learning opportunities for our students. Community members will be recruited to collaborate in the Design Phase beginning in September with the Construction Phase to follow.

We have made the promise to be innovative in the design and creation of opportunities for our students. It is a promise we intend to keep. Let's make our students' success a promise kept for our community.

2014-15 Football Schedule
Let's Go Crusiers!

Aug. 16: @ Hamilton Twp, 10 AM
Aug. 22: @ Northland, 7 PM
Aug. 29: Canal Winchester
Sept. 5: @ South
Sept. 12: @ Westerville North
Sept. 19: @ Gahanna Lincoln
Sept. 26: Grove City
Oct. 3: @ Lancaster
Oct. 10: Newark
Oct. 17: Pickerington North
Oct. 24: @ Pickerington Central

Kick-off is at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted. Gates for home games open at 6:00 PM.



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