



From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Park Avenue Families:

Spring is here, so that means it is time for our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students to take Iowa Assessments. We will begin testing on Tuesday, March 29th and finish up on Friday, April 1st. Makeup tests will be given the following week. Please make sure that students are on time for school, so that they will not miss any of the tests. These tests are timed, so once a class has started a test we will not let students go into the classroom. Our goal is for all students at Park Avenue to make progress from last year's scores.

Spring also means time to start thinking about PTA Officers for the 2016-2017 school year. We are in a very critical position with our PTA here at Park Avenue. We do not have any returning officers for next year. We need a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. If we do not have any parents volunteer to fill these positions, we will not have a PTA next year. The PTA sponsors the following activities, and without a PTA we will no longer have these great things:

- Fun Night
- Family Night at the Zoo
- Valentine's Dance
- Book Fairs
- Classroom Supplies
- Yearbooks for all students

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in becoming a PTA Board Member ,or if you just have questions, 515-242-8429 or dianna.anderson@dmschools.org.

Arrival and dismissal continue to be a very busy and congested time here at Park Avenue. The safety of our students is most important to the staff here at Park Avenue. In order to keep all of our students safe, we need the cooperation of the community. When dropping off or picking up your students in the parking lot, please do not leave your car in the pick-up lane. If you need to come into the building, please park your car in a designated parking spot. It is important that we keep the area next to the curb open ,so students can be dropped off next to the side walk and they do not have to cross in front of traffic. If you are waiting in your car with your students, please pull to the east end of the drop off lane keeping the west and south clear for parents to pull-up and drop-off their students. When you park in the pick-up lane you are blocking traffic and slowing down the process for all students. We ask the same thing of families that are picking up their students on Park Avenue.

Please put the following dates on your calendar:

- April 1st – Drama Club Performance, 7:00 p.m.
- April 8th – PTA Fun Night 6:00 to 8:00 pm (students must come with an adult)
- April 21st – 3rd and 4th grade concert and art show 6:00 to 7:30pm
- May 12th – 5th Grade Exhibition and Family IB Night 4:30 to 6:00pm
- May 20th – Talent Show, 7:00 p.m.
- May 27th – Family Night at the Zoo, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- May 31st – 5th Grade Recognition, 1:00-3:00pm

Dianna Anderson
Principal

Mark Your Calendars!

April

March 29-April 8 Iowa Assessment

1 Drama Club play 7pm

5 5th grade tour of Central Campus

8 PTA Fun Night an silent auction 6pm

15 Report cards sent home

19 4th grade to Art Center and PappaJohn Sculpture Park

19 PTA annual meeting 5:30pm

20 Kindergarten sign up 2:30-5:30pm

21 A Night for the Arts 3rd & 4th grade 6pm

***See future events on page 6**

KINDERGARTEN

School Hours

8:15am-3:00pm

Every Wed. is an early out.

Building doors are unlocked at 7:55am.

Playing on the playground before school is not permitted.



In literacy, the kindergarten students are working on identifying the main idea and the detail in fiction and nonfiction text. To reinforce this skill at home, ask your child what the story was about and what are four details that support the main idea. Your child is tested each month on the sight words. Please continue to work on the sight words with your child.

The kindergarten students are underway learning about simple machines. The central idea state, *Simple machines make work easier*. Please ask your child what simple machine they are learning about each week and have them tell you how that simple machine makes work easier. You can also encourage your child to go on a simple machine hunt around the house. Can they spy an example of the following simple machines:

- Pulley
- Incline planes
- Wheel and axle
- Screw

In math, the students are working on writing and solving simple addition and subtraction equations (for example $3+3=6$ and $2-1=1$) To reinforce this skill at home, you can write a simple addition and/or subtraction problem and have your child solve the equation by drawing a picture or using their fingers. Please continue to encourage your child to count and write their numbers at home. Students should be able to write their numbers from 1-50 and orally count from 1-105.

- The Kindergarten Team



Mission Statement

Learners at Park Avenue will be life-long inquirers who strive to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. We will cooperate and care for ourselves, others and the world around us.

1st Grade

First grade students have been working on asking and answering questions about key details as they are reading. This helps students become better readers. Be sure to ask your child questions about what they have read and also have them ask questions about the books they are reading.

We have now finished our planner on how diversity shapes our lifestyles. We learned a lot about how people are the same and different depending on where they live and when they lived. We have just started our planner on how natural resources may enhance our lives.

Our math brains are working hard. We are continuing to work on addition and subtraction concepts. We will be starting to work on telling time to the hour and half hour and measuring soon.

During writing, we have been working on writing about ourselves. We are also trying hard to remember capital letters, spaces, and punctuation in our sentences. Also stretching out our words when we are trying to spell is very important.

Please continue working on sight words at home. Knowing them in a “snap” makes us better readers and writers.

-The First Grade Team

2nd Grade

Dear Second Grade Families,

The current second grade IB inquiry unit is on Conservation. The central idea states People may establish practices in order to keep Earth's resources. In the next few weeks students will learn about the role conservation plays in lives, our roles and responsibilities in conserving resources, and what effects conservation has on others around the world. To guide students' learning back to the central idea, they will show commitment through action.

The P.Y.P Learner Profile

COMMUNICATOR

Risk-Taker

Inquirer

Reflective

Thinker

Caring

BALANCED

Open-Minded

Principled

Please continue to have your child read daily at home and practice basic math facts.

Thanks for your continued support and involvement!

-The Second Grade Team



3rd Grade

Fractions, decimals and geometry is how we are finishing the year in math. Students are making connections with division and fractions. We continue to practice our subtraction and addition skills. Math is a time of collaborative problem solving.

Literacy- students continue to build stamina by reading for longer periods of time. Students are discovering their preferences in literature: mysteries, graphic novels, realistic fiction and non-fiction. Students are determining the theme of different stories. Comparing and contrasting stories is a skill that we continue to work on. The computer program Lexia is providing individualized work for students to master their word work skills.

We have finished our study of earth's processes and have moved into our 5th theme of the year. This theme is "Where we are in place and time". Students are studying explorers of past, present and future. The possible trip to Mars has been a topic of conversations for many students. We will finish the year with our theme of "Sharing the Plant". This year 3rd grade is working with the PTA on the butterfly garden. If you have an interest in contributing to the success of the butterfly garden please contact someone on our team.

-The Third Grade Team

4th Grade



Greetings from 4th grade. We have been busy with growing and learning over the winter. Students in 4th grade are studying and learning about the functions of Government, including rights and responsibilities and economies. We have a 4th grade field trip to attend with Mrs. Warner-Blankenship to the Art Center April 19th. Students are learning about Geometry in math. It is that time of the year when the temperatures are changing throughout the day. Students will need to dress in layers. It is still cold in the morning and will warm up in the afternoon. 3rd and 4th grade have a Night of Arts on April 21st. We hope to see you there.

Transdisciplinary

Themes:

- The Fourth Grade Team

*How We Express
Ourselves*



5th Grade

***How We
Organize
Ourselves***

Fifth grade has been busy! In math, students have finished polygons, solid figures, area, and perimeter. We will begin work with fractions within the next week. In literacy, kids have been studying inferencing and overall text structure (chronology, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution).

*Sharing the
Planet*

It has been exciting to start exhibition groups this week! There are two Park Avenue teachers mentoring each group, and students will meet with them twice a week. Exhibition will be on May 12, 2016 from 4:30-6:00, and there will be several reminder notes sent home. Fifth graders will also have a field trip to Central Campus on Friday, April 8, 2016. Central Campus is going to provide sack lunches for the students, but students may bring their own if desired. Thanks for the great support at home!

***WHERE WE ARE
IN PLACE AND
TIME***

- The Fifth Grade Team

Who We Are

A Night for the Arts

*How the World
Works*

Third and fourth grade students will have their Music Concert and Art Show on **Thursday, April 21st from 6-7:30pm** here at Park Avenue. "Making a Change in the World" is the theme for our concert. Students will sing, play instruments, and use movement during the performance. Student artwork will be on display throughout the school as well. Students can pick up their portfolios at the end of the evening. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Art



Park Avenue

School Pledge

**I pledge to be
an open-minded
thinker;**

**To do my best
to have a
caring
attitude.**

**I will be
committed to
learning and
showing
enthusiasm
each day.**

**I believe that
quality work
equals success.**

**I can use my
knowledge to be
successful in
the world
world.**

The Art Studio:

All grades are finishing up their clay projects. We will begin glazing them soon. 5th grade worked on coil pots, 4th grade created garden gnomes, 3rd grade made slab birds, 2nd grade created decorative coil pots, first grade created pinch pots, and kindergarteners made pendants or ornaments. Our clay projects were a lot of work and students really enjoyed the process.

Spring will be busy in the art room- we have many project ideas and not much time left! We hope to work on stop-motion animation, a variety of self-portraits, and, hopefully get outside to do some observational drawing.

Third and Fourth grade students will receive their portfolios at a Night for the Arts on April 21st and Fifth grade will take their work home at the end of the year. - Mrs. W-B

Music Notes!

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners have been exploring lots of different instruments in music class. They even got to play the biggest drums in the room. They will be working on learning their first folk dance soon!

First Grade: First graders can now sing, read, and play the notes So, Mi, and La. They are working on learning an entire song on the xylophones. In the coming weeks they will be using the rhythms they have been learning all year on the West African drums.

Second Grade: Second graders now can sing and read half notes! They will be learning a song on the xylophones soon that uses the half note. They will be also be learning two brand new notes soon (re and do).

Third and Fourth Graders: These students are very busy preparing for their upcoming **Night for the Arts program on Thursday April 21st (from 6:00-7:30)**. The theme for this concert is making a change in the world. They are very excited to share the music they have created with their families soon!

Fifth Grade: Fifth graders have been exploring music from the different decades in America. They have been learning to appreciate different genres of music that they may not be used to. They are also starting to learn music for their 5th grade Recognition concert!

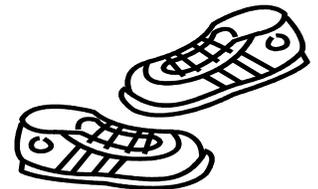
-Ms. Murphy

Gym Shorts

A great big **THANK YOU** goes out to all the students who participated in Jump Rope for Heart. Park Avenue was able to raised \$2285.01 for JRFH. This also earns the school a \$100 gift card to US games.

In the gym after Spring Break, all students will be working with the Des Moines Public School's indoor fitness equipment called the Rail Yard.

The six fastest fifth graders at Park Avenue will be invited to attend the Drake Relays and run a straight line shuttle race. They run at 5:00pm on Friday, April 29 at the Drake Stadium. - Mrs. Steward



Español/Spanish

¡Hola! Hello! We have been working hard on our newest units. Kinder – Las formas (shapes), 1^{er} grado – La fruta (fruit), 2^o – Voy en... (Transportation), 3^{er} grado – Los países hispanohablantes de Sudamérica (Spanish-speaking countries of South America), 4^o grado – Los verbos 'AR' (Conjugating 'AR' verbs), and 5^o – El verbo ESTAR (Using the verb ESTAR). Remember, you can practice Spanish at home using some of the links on Sra. Pudenz's website. Go to: <http://srapudenz.weebly.com>. Students may also visit www.zondle.com to continue practice at home. Good luck! ¡Buena suerte!

- Senora Pudenz



Future Events



May

1-7 Teacher Appreciation Week

2 3rd grade trip to Fort Des Moines Park

5 South Side 5th grade band concert 6:00pm, Lincoln Rails Academy

9 2nd grade trip to Jester Park

11 5th grade orientation at Brody 5:30-6:30pm

12 Entire school to San Jose Taiko Drum performance at Civic Center

12 International Baccalaureate Night and 5th grade Exhibition 4:30pm

12 PTA Book Fair 5pm

20 Talent show 7pm

27 Park Avenue Night at the Zoo, sponsored by PTA 5-9pm

30 Memorial Day, no school

31 5th grade recognition 1-3pm

June

2 Last day of school, noon dismissal (subject to change)

July

5 Online registration begins

MINION READING CHALLENGE

Minions are back at Park Avenue!!!! Read a book, turn in your signed parent note and get a ticket in the drawing to win a minion, minion pillow, or one of the many other minion prizes!

Kindergarten – 1st graders

*Read a book with a parent; bring back a signed note with your name and the name of the book you read.

*Then turn in to Ms. Hurt to get your ticket in the drawing!!!!

2nd – 5th graders

***Read a book for 20 minutes; bring back a signed note with your name, and the name of the book you read.**

***Then turn in to Ms. Hurt to get your ticket in the drawing!!!!**

All entries must be turned in to Ms. Hurt in the library to receive a ticket to enter the drawings by May 26th. We will draw Friday May 27th for the winners.

READ, READ, READ!!!

Nurse's Notes

Physical Exams: ***Parents of second graders and fifth graders, please note:*** the Des Moines Public Schools request health physical exam reports for students in grades kindergarten, third, sixth and ninth. We will accept any physical exam form from your health care provider.

Vision Screening Requirement: All third graders are now required to have a vision screening on file. The screening is to be done no earlier than one year before and no later than six months after school starts in August. Forms will be coming home later this spring with all ***second grade students.***

Special Diet needs: As you are planning for the summer, please remember that the DMPS dietary department needs a renewed Special Diet form each year (for food allergies & other medical conditions). For those students who already have those forms on file, I will be sending new forms home before the end of the school year to be completed and signed by a physician in preparation for the '16-'17 school year.

Head Lice: You may have heard that head lice are becoming resistant to common treatments. It is still recommended that as soon as you notice nits (eggs) or lice, you treat with an over-the-counter treatment such as Rid or Nix. Follow package instructions carefully and retreat on day nine, which will help kill lice in all stages of their life cycle.

An essential step is *removing all of the nits*, which stick to the hair shaft. If not using an over-the-counter treatment, try using a gentle cleanser like Cetaphil, which will help make the hair wet and slippery, allowing the nits and lice to be removed more easily. Depending upon how long lice have been present, you could have to remove a few dozen or a few hundred nits/lice from your child's head.

Lice can live off a body for up to 36-48 hours. It is important, therefore, to wash any surface that the child's head has come into contact with such as pillowcases, blankets, hats, clothes, combs, and other hair-care items. Wash in hot water (130 degrees). Other items that cannot be washed, such as stuffed animals, should be stored inside a plastic bag for at least 3 days or dry cleansed. Vacuum carpets and upholstered furniture, and discard the vacuum cleaner bag as soon as you are done.

If lice are still present after two treatments, see your physician, as there are stronger prescription medications available.

Please check your student weekly for signs of lice. Even though lice don't carry disease or present health risks, an infestation can be itchy, irritating and distracting.

Thank you

Lisa Bolin, RN

2015-2016 School Year
PATRON NOTIFICATION
Between District Open Enrollment
Iowa Administrative Code 281-17.3(2)

Parents/Guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their children in another public school district in the state of Iowa should be aware of the following dates:

DEADLINES:

March 1, 2015 is the last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2015-2016 school year.

September 1, 2015 is the last date for open enrollment requests for entering kindergarten students and those students falling under the “good cause” definition for the 2015-2016 school year. To insure that the transfer of individual students does not adversely affect the diversity plan of the District, certain limitations to open enrollment have been established. **Parents of kindergarten students are therefore encouraged to make application requests prior to March 1, 2015.**

APPEALS:

Within 30 days of a denial of an open enrollment request by the DMPS Board of Education, a parent/guardian may file an appeal with the state board of education only if the open enrollment request was based on repeated acts of harassment or a serious health condition of the student that the district cannot adequately address. All other denials must be appealed to the district court in Polk County.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY:

In most cases, a high school student who open enrolls is **ineligible** for **varsity** athletic competition during the student’s first 90 consecutive school days of enrollment in the receiving district. Some, but not all, exceptions to this general rule of ineligibility are as follows:

The sending district does not offer the sport in question.

The sending district was dissolved and merged with one or more other districts.

The sending district whole-grade shares with another district for the student’s grade level.

TRANSPORTATION:

Parents/Guardians of students open enrolled from another school district are eligible for transportation assistance if the household income of the parent/guardian is at or below the federal poverty guidelines for household size. The two districts must be contiguous. Assistance may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend. Information regarding transportation eligibility and a complete copy of the District’s open enrollment policy and procedures may be obtained from the Open Enrollment Office, 1301 Second Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAURETTE

For more information regarding IB publications and the General Regulation PYP document please visit:
<http://www.ibo.org/pyp/become/>

Persons with disabilities who need information about accessibility or who need sign or language interpreters, please contact the Director of Student and Family Services, (515) 242-7714

Equity Statement

The Des Moines Independent Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district’s Office of Human Resources, 901 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309; phone: 515-242-7911.

SEX OFFENDER NOTICES

Parents and guardians are encouraged to check and obtain information regarding sex offenders in the Park Avenue neighborhood by accessing the following website: <http://www.iowasexoffender.com>

Año Escolar de 2015-2016
NOTIFICACIÓN DE USUARIOS
Entre la inscripción abierta de distrito
Iowa Código administrativo 281-17.3(2)

Padres/tutores teniendo en cuenta el uso de la opción de inscripción abierta para inscribir a sus hijos en otro distrito de la escuela pública en el estado de Iowa los padres o tutores deben ser conscientes de las siguientes fechas:

PLAZOS:

01 de Marzo de 2015 es el plazo para las solicitudes regulares de inscripción abierta para el año 2015-2016.

01 de Septiembre de 2015 es el plazo para las solicitudes de inscripción abierta para estudiantes de Kinder y los estudiantes pertenecientes a la definición de "buena causa" para el año 2015-2016. Para asegurar que la transferencia de estudiantes individuales no afecta el plan de diversidad del distrito, se han establecido ciertas limitaciones para abrir la inscripción. **Los padres de los estudiantes de Kinder por lo tanto animamos a realizar solicitudes de aplicación antes de 01 de Marzo de 2015.**

APELACIÓN:

Dentro de 30 días de una denegación de una solicitud de inscripción abierta por la Junta de Educación de DMPS, un padre o tutor puede presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Educación del Estado sólo si la solicitud de inscripción abierta se basaba en repetidos actos de acoso o una condición de salud seria del estudiante que el distrito no puede responder adecuadamente. Todos otros rechazos deben apelarse ante el Tribunal de Distrito en el Condado de Polk

ELEGIBILIDAD ATLÉTICA:

En la mayoría de los casos, un estudiante de secundaria de inscripción abierta es inelegible para competencias atléticas de varsity durante primeros 90 días consecutivos de inscripción del estudiante en el distrito de recepción. Algunos, pero no todos, excepciones a esta regla general de inelegibilidad son los siguientes:

1. El distrito enviado no ofrece el deporte en cuestión.
2. El distrito enviado fue disuelta y se fusionó con uno o más distritos.
3. Las acciones de grado conjunto Distrito envía con otro distrito para el grado del estudiante.

TRANSPORTE:

Los padres/tutores de estudiantes abiertos de otro distrito escolar son elegibles para asistencia de transporte si el ingreso de los padres/tutores es igual o por debajo de las pautas federales de pobreza para el tamaño de la familia. Los dos distritos deben ser contiguos. Asistencia puede ser en la forma de transporte real o en forma de un estipendio de efectivo. Puede obtenerse información sobre la elegibilidad de transporte y una copia completa de inscripción abierta política del distrito y los procedimientos de la oficina de inscripción abierta, 1301 Second Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314