

Week 1 in Evergreen

The 2024-25 school year has gotten off to an excellent start in Evergreen. This past week our students learned a lot about their classrooms, their classmates, teachers, and ways that they can help create a strong learning environment and a tight-knit community in their classrooms and throughout the building. We are looking forward to a year of tremendous growth in our students and are so appreciative of the ways you foster this growth in your children. The Evergreen staff understands the value of a strong partnership between families and schools and the positive impact that it can have on our children's success. Thank you in advance for your partnership with us this year! It is shaping up to be a great 2024-25!

Growing Classroom Communities

Over the course of this year, our staff will spend a significant amount of time and energy on building a caring and supportive community of learners in their classrooms. Teachers and staff will help foster new friendships and will take time to celebrate students' similarities and differences, all with the goal of developing a rich learning environment. I would encourage you to spend time talking to your children about their classmates and friends. Listen for those positive qualities your child sees in others and acknowledge their efforts to develop new friendships.

Evergreen - Encouraging Excellence in Attendance

Did you know that regular school attendance is directly linked to academic achievement? When students attend school consistently, they not only build a strong foundation of knowledge but also develop important life skills such as time management, responsibility, and a love for learning. Your child's daily presence in the classroom contributes to a positive and supportive environment, creating an engaged community of learners.

As family members, your involvement in your child's education is invaluable. By ensuring your child attends school regularly, you are playing a critical role in their academic and personal development. Consistent attendance sets the stage for future success, building the skills and habits that will serve them well, not only in their education but in life beyond graduation. Thank you so much for your commitment to your child's education! Attached, you will find our Allendale Attendance Matters flyer which holds a wealth of ideas and information about promoting strong school attendance. Take a look.

Knowing your Child as a Learner

Over the next couple of weeks, our students will participate in a variety of assessments that the Evergreen staff will use to plan effective instruction for our students. Following the collection and review of our students' assessment data, staff members will create reading and math groups designed to give our students targeted support. Along with collecting academic data, our staff is learning about our students' interests, their areas of strength, things they are striving to get better at, and how we can best help them grow this year. All of these will help contribute to building a strong learning community.

School Safety Week

Over the next couple of weeks, the district's school buildings will participate in a district-wide School Safety Week. Throughout that week, all buildings and departments will practice each of our district safety drills. Students' safety and well-being are of the utmost importance to us, and we look forward to increasing their awareness of the procedures we would take in a variety of emergency situations.

Allendale's K-5 Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) - Invitation

Allendale Public Schools has been blessed for many years with a tremendous PTO. Each year the PTO contributes to the success of our schools through their involvement. Along with organizing very successful fundraisers, the PTO creates and assists with a variety of student activities throughout the year. If you are looking for ways to be more informed about the school system, or are seeking ways to be involved, we invite

you to attend our PTO meetings. Our first PTO Parent Meeting of the year will be Wednesday, September 11 from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm in Evergreen's East Library.

I have attached two PTO documents to this email for your review. One is a weekly newsletter from the PTO that includes event information and meeting dates. The second document is an overview page that includes information about the organization and its plans for the 24-25 school year.

Picture Date - October 1

On October 1, Geskus Photography will be in the Evergreen building for our annual Picture Day. Packets will be coming home with your student in a few weeks.

Reminder: Free School Lunch and Breakfast Forms

This year, the Michigan Schools Meals program is allowing all public school students to receive one free school breakfast and one free school lunch per day. Because APS' Food Service funding is still dependent on the district's free/reduced lunch rates, if you have qualified in the past or believe your family would qualify currently for free and reduced lunch service, it would be very helpful if you would fill out an application at allendale.familyportal.cloud. If you have any questions please contact Food Service at 616-892-5591

Reminder: Family C.A.R.E. Coordinator

APS is adding to the Family CARE program (formally OCSN) and we couldn't be more excited to start the 2024-2025 year with this growth and rebrand. Please see the Family C.A.R.E. Introduction Letter attached to this email to learn who the Coordinators are and how we can help our students and families!

Reminder: Electronic Devices Policy

We wanted to share this reminder with you regarding electronic devices and ask for your help in encouraging your children to make good choices about leaving their devices at home. Thank you! This is Evergreen's personal electronic devices policy, which is aligned for consistency across the K-8 buildings, states:

"Evergreen students will not be permitted to have personal electronic devices out during the school day, including cell phones, smartwatches, and tablets, among others. Preferably, these items would remain at home, however, if a student brings a device, it should be turned off and left in their backpack during school hours. If personal electronic devices are observed by staff they may be confiscated and turned in to the office. Parents will then be asked to make arrangements with the office to pick up the device."

Student Activities

Girls in Aviation Day Event

The Women in Aviation Great Lakes Chapter is hosting a Girls in Aviation Day Event on September 21st from 11-3 at Avflight - Grand Rapids Airport. This year will mark the 10th Annual Girls in Aviation Day, an event put on by various chapters of Women in Aviation International with the goal of inspiring young people to expand their interest and explore the opportunities available in the aerospace industry. A flyer with registration information is attached. The event highlights include:

- Static Aircraft, Fuel Truck, Tug, Fire Truck, and Snow Removal Equipment
- Airfield Tours in an Operations Cruiser
- Aircraft Marshaling Lessons
- Aviation-themed arts and crafts
- VFR Sectional Scavenger Hunt
- Avionics Adventures
- ATC Simulator
- Safety Wiring Demonstration

- Panel-style discussions and more!

Falcon Kids' Choir and Drumtastix

For a number of years now, Evergreen Elementary has featured an exceptional Kids' Choir, led by Mr. DeZwaan, one of Evergreen's Music teachers. Mr. DeZwaan is gathering names of second and third-grade students who would be interested in participating in the Kids Choirs this year. He is also offering an opportunity for our third-grade students to participate in the drumming group, Drumtastix. If your child would like to join, please check out the attached flyers.

Total Trek Quest

TTQ is a running club for boys in 3rd through 5th grade. It is a great opportunity for young boys to engage in physical activity and develop their running skills. The program will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:20 - 5:00 pm. Third-grade students will meet a coach outside of the office and walk over to Oakwood with the team coach. TTQ starts on Monday, September 9, and will end on November 16. The cost to participate is \$50.00. If you have any questions or if you'd like assistance with something else, feel free to contact TTQ@arborcircle.org. A flyer with more information is attached to this email and the registration site is: <https://www.pinwheel.us/register/index/AOFall2024>