

The William Bick Primary Communicator

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August 2006

William Bick Primary Vision

Educate the child today to promote success for tomorrow.

William Bick Primary Mission

At William Bick Primary, we will strive to create a caring, safe environment, which enables every individual to learn. We will foster intellectual, social, physical, and creative development in each child.

School Day and Bus Pick Up Times

Our school day begins at 8:55 a.m. and the day ends at 3:25 p.m. The school bus will pick up your child at the same time as last year unless you receive notification from the transportation department stating a different pick up time. All kindergarten students will receive a school bus pick up time notification in the mail.

Open House for 1st and 2nd Grade Students

Open House is scheduled for August 21st from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Open House is a great time to meet your child's teacher for the new school year. While at Open House, drop by the library for an explanation of our Accelerated Reader Program. Our librarian will do a presentation at 6:45 p.m. Also during Open House 1st and 2nd grade students can check out a library book. After visiting with your child's teacher, don't forget to pick up information explaining the curriculum, instruction, and assessments used by our teachers. This will be a very helpful resource to refer to during the school year. You can also purchase lunch tickets in the cafeteria. The prices are as follows:

5 Day Lunch Ticket - \$10.00

10 Day Lunch Ticket - \$20.00

20 Day Lunch Ticket - \$40.00

Kindergarten Orientation

There will be a special orientation meeting on August 24th in the William Bick Primary School gymnasium. If your child is in "Group A", orientation is from 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. If your child is in "Group B", orientation is from 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Both orientation sessions will begin with a brief meeting in the gymnasium. At orientation students will meet their teacher and learn a lot of things about our school. Each student will receive a very special nametag. The nametag must be worn every day the student comes to school for the first two weeks of school. This will help us get to know each student and make sure we send them home on the correct bus. We hope to see you at orientation!

Dismissal at the End of the School Day

Parents are encouraged to have their children ride the bus home from school. If a parent wishes to pick up his/her child, a note must be sent to school with the child on the day the child will be picked up. The note must be given to your child's teacher. This parent note is especially important if you plan to pick your child up at the end of the first day of school. The note must clearly state if the child is to be picked up on a regular basis or if it is a one time occurrence. Parents planning on picking up their child must be at school at 3:25 p.m. and have a photo identification card (i.e. driver's license). Students being picked up will be dismissed to the gymnasium at 3:25 p.m.

Tiger Tools for Schools

Don't forget to attend Tiger Tools for Schools. At this special event, students of the Bethel-Tate School District in grades K – 5 can get free school supplies, free haircuts, tours of the building, and immunizations. Tiger Tools for Schools is August 8, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at William Bick Primary. A big thank you goes out to our PTO for organizing this event!

The first day of school is August 23, 2006!

(OVER)

Teacher Professional Development Days

In order to provide the best instruction for your children the district is committed to continued training and in-service time for staff. There will be one full day for teacher in-service on October 13, 2006. Students will not have school on that day. There are five dates set for students to be dismissed early from school. Those dates are: September 19, November 14, December 12, February 13, and April 24. On these days car riders and bus riders will be dismissed at 1:25 p.m. to go home for the day. Since there will be no one available to supervise students, all students must leave school grounds at the end of the school day.

New Breakfast Program

Starting this school year we will serve breakfast each morning. The breakfast will consist of milk, juice, and cereal. Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria at the beginning of the school day. Students wanting to purchase breakfast will go to the cafeteria, while all other students will report to their classroom. The cost of breakfast is \$1.00. Students on free lunch may get breakfast for free as well. Students who pay a reduced rate for lunch may purchase a breakfast for \$0.30. Like school lunches, parents may pre-pay for breakfast.

New Teachers at William Bick Primary

We will have two new special area teachers this school year. Mr. Dennis Gregovich will replace Mrs. Collins as our physical education teacher. Mr. Gregovich is a veteran teacher having worked in our school district for many years. Ms. Jamie Bischoff is our new art teacher and will replace Ms. Dumas. This is Ms. Bischoff's first year as a teacher. Mrs. Collins and Ms. Dumas will teach at Hill Intermediate this school year.

Bus Passes

Students are to ride their assigned bus to and from school at all times. The only exception to this rule will be if the building principal has a note from the parent and a bus pass has been issued. Transportation arrangements will not be changed during the school day over the telephone. In the event a parent must change his/her child's transportation arrangements during the school day, the parent must fax a signed and dated note explaining the change in transportation arrangements. When writing a note to request a bus pass, be sure to include the child's first and last name, the complete address of the residence where the student is to be dropped off, and the name of your child's teacher.

Superintendent's Update
By Jim Smith

Welcome back! Welcome back to one of the best school districts in SW Ohio. We are anticipating that shortly the state of Ohio will designate Bethel-Tate Schools an "excellent" school district. We would be one of the two in Clermont County (Milford is the other). This exciting news is based upon results that show the district meeting 24 out of 25 key state indicators with a performance index over a 100. Twenty three of the state indicators are the Ohio Achievement Tests in grades 3-11. The other two indicators are district wide student attendance and the graduation rate.

According to the preliminary data supplied by the state, Bethel-Tate High School and Ebon C. Hill Intermediate School will be rated excellent while the Bethel-Tate Middle School will be rated effective. William Bick Primary is not rated because students do not take the state achievement tests in grades K-2. The district has also met all average yearly progress requirements as determined by the "No Child Left Behind Act". Last year only 18% of Ohio's school districts were designated excellent. This puts us in rather elite company with districts like Madeira, Mariemont, Wyoming and Lakota. I'm very proud of our students, their parents, our outstanding staff, and our board of education for all their efforts. We've come close in other years but never wavered in our determination to make this designation. I am particularly proud of the test scores of our sophomore students on the Ohio Graduation Test. We came in first in the county in math, reading and writing. We came in second in science and social studies. This was a truly outstanding effort.

In other news, our Music Boosters are selling memberships for \$5 each. The money raised from the sale of memberships will be used to support our choirs and band during the school year. Music students will be selling the memberships over the next few weeks. Please help our students by buying a membership and receiving a cool bumper sticker.

We also have new high school principal, Kim McGuire. Ms. McGuire comes to us from Lakota West High School where she has served as Associate Principal for the past seven years. She replaces Dr. Mimi Webb who is now the Superintendent at St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School. We wish Dr. Webb the very best in her position.

Have a great school year. The staff at Bethel-Tate is here to serve you and your children. And, as always, I am here to help in anyway that I can. I can be reached at 734-2238 or at smith_ja@betheltate.org.

Calendar

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| ▪ 8/21/06 | Open House for 1 st /2 nd Grades 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ 8/23/06 | First Day of School |
| ▪ 8/24/06 | Kindergarten Orientation |
| ▪ 9/4/06 | Labor Day – No School |

