

Special points of interest:

- Parent Night Programs
- SBDM News
- 8th Grade High School Applications
- Parent Involvement Dates
- Success by the Numbers
- When to Expect Report Cards
- Academics

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From the Principal...

Let me begin by thanking parents and students for their hard work for the first semester of school. We have many things to celebrate! They include:

- Rising student attendance, which is again up each consecutive month this year compared to last year
- Positive changes in culture and intense focus on relationships between staff and students through our CARE for Kids program.
- Increased opportunities for student involvement through an increased number of after school clubs and athletics.
- Doubled parent involvement through our fall festival and parent night programs.

All of these things show a continued pattern of improvement that we hope is sustained throughout the rest of the school year.

As we begin second semester, our focus is on achieving our goals for this spring's KCCCT assessment. We will be focusing on teaching core content every day in a structured way and using gender specific strategies that work for boys. It will be important for us to continue to work on improving and sustaining positive relationships with our parents and students. In addition to our instructional goals, we are continuing to look for ways to boost our Parent Involvement Program with a new round of programs for 2010. Building relationships with our students through our Club Day programs and the implementation of CARE for Kids will remain a priority. Last, we will continue to celebrate student success with

Student of the Week, Team Awards, and Colts of the Week Programs.

We all look forward to our continued work with your child in 2010 and beyond. Please make sure that your child returns to school with replenished school supplies, pencils, paper, and new folders as we have gone through many materials over the course of this school year.

If you are not already a member, we would love to have your participation in the PTSA. Membership is \$5 and can be turned into the Main Office at any time. If you have questions about joining our PTSA, please call or see Ms. Paula Cathey, our Faculty Representative.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for a wonderful first half of this school year, and I ask for your help in the second half of the year. I look forward to working with each of you and want you to know that you are always welcome to come by or call.

Please feel free to call me at 485-8331 or email me at bill.perkins@jefferson.kyschools.us if you have any questions or concerns.

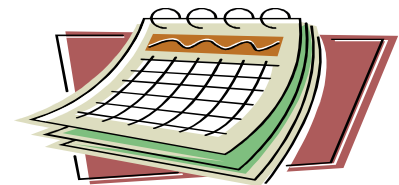
Have a wonderful holiday season!



Perkins, Principal

Bill

Attendance



It is vital that our students maintain good attendance. Please help us by encouraging your child to be at school each day. Feel free to call our Counselor Ms. Shonte' Hardin or our Youth Service Center Coordinator Durk Davidson if you have questions or need help regarding your child's attendance.

If your child is going to be absent due to illness or emergency please call us at 485-8331 so that we can notify teachers. We appreciate your partnership with us on this important issue.

Straight from Ms. Hardin's Heart

It's difficult to believe, but half of this school year is almost over! Although we are at the halfway mark, we must keep our students focused on their education. As parents and guardians, there are several pieces of information that you need to know:

8th Grade: The high school application period ends on Friday, January 8, 2010. The applications must be **received** in the Options, Magnet, and Advanced Program Office by this date. Applications can be found in the *Choices* books that were mailed home in October/November. If you did not receive one, your son can go to the main office and pick one up.

If your son is interested in attending a traditional school, a magnet school, or a magnet program, then you must complete and turn in the application. I am encouraging all 8th graders to select schools in their networks as well. This is your opportunity to have a voice in the school that your son attends. If you do not submit an application, the district will make a selection for you.

I know that this process can be overwhelming- that's why I am here to assist you. If you have any questions regarding the high school application process, please call me at 485-8331 or email me at shonte'.hardin@jefferson.kyschools.us.

All Grades: In January, a Mid-Year Status Report will be sent home informing you of your son's progress towards meeting the requirements for promotion and transition. This document will show you all of the requirements by grade-level. Your son will either have the "yes" box checked to indicate that he is successfully fulfilling the requirements, or the "no" box checked to indicate that he is **not** successfully fulfilling the requirements. If the "no" box, is checked, you will need to contact me.

I hope all of you have safe and wonderfully blessed holidays! I'll see you on January 5, 2010!

Ms. Shonte' Hardin, Counselor

FLOAN Athletics and Academic Teams by Jeffrey Phelps, Athletic Director

For the 2009 school year, Olmsted Athletics and Academics have made great strides.

Prepare for spring
sports tryouts!

- The Quick Recall Team (coached by Mr. Voelker and Ms. Harris) is currently 4-2 which is a major improvement over last year's single win.
- The Cross Country Team (coached by Ms. Harris) also had a great start with the first Cross Country Team. Kaleb Mota medaled in the City Championship.
- The 6th grade Basketball Team (coached by Anthony Hudson) is currently 5-0 in their 2nd year.
- The 7th/8th Basketball Team (coached by Latonya Bland and Ms. Jackson) is currently 2-3 and showing steady improvement to compete in this year's district.

Overall, we are very proud of the Athletic and Academic program and the success of the new coaches and teams, and we can't wait to see all of the successes of our spring teams. Come out and support your Olmsted Colts!

Site Based Decision-Making Council News

Recently, we had Site Based Decision Making Council (SBDM) elections for our school. The council is made up of the principal, three teachers, and two parents. Their work will begin January 2010. Please note our new representatives:

- Danielle Watts (Teacher)
- Vanessa Poteet (Teacher)
- Ron Cheeks (Teacher)
- Jim Jordan (Parent)
- Sherry Kelley (Parent)
- Bill Perkins (Principal)

If you have issues you would like to speak to one of your representatives about, please call our school, and we will

put you in touch with them or work to get them a message.

You can view council meeting minutes, policies, and bylaws at the following link:

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Schools/Middle/OlmstedNorth/SBDM.html>



Charting Olmsted Academy North's Growth

In the time since our transition from the old Southern Leadership Academy to the new Olmsted Academy North, there has been a wave of positive changes that make Olmsted the place to be. While we can all see the improvements that are reflected in an improved climate and culture, sometimes it's difficult to get a clear picture of the incredible strides we've made until you take a look at the data.

Parent-Teacher-Student Association:

- 2010----164 members midyear and growing
- 2009----237 members
- 2008----191 members
- 2007----180 members***
- 2006----10 members***

Average Attendance:

- 2010-----93.58% (as of 11/13/09)
- 2009-----90.70%
- 2008-----89.04%***
- 2007-----89.43%***
- 2006-----89.04%***

Number of Discipline Referrals:

	ISAP	Suspension
2008-2009	373	253
2007-2008	1040	315***
2006-2007		381***

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- 2009-2010 ---1146 (after our first Parent-Teacher Conference Day)
- 2008-2009 ---2539 (2 full conference days)
- 2007-2008 ---1358 (2 full conference days)***
- 2006-2007 ---1194 (2 full conference days)***

Athletics:

	Sports	Student Athletes
2009-2010	8	154 (Cross-Country, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Flag Football, Track, Quick Recall)
2008-2009	6	110 (Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Flag Football, Quick Recall)
2007-2008***	3	45 (Boys & Girls Basketball, Flag Football)
2006-2007***	3	45 (Boys & Girls Basketball, Flag Football)

After School Clubs/Activities:

	Activities	Student Participants
2009-2010	16	298 (Adelantell, Beta, Board Games, ETHICS Society, FCA, Engineering, Fitness, Green Team, Guitar, Hydroplane, Intramurals, Jazz Band, Spanish, Student Council, Chess, Art)
2008-2009	8	221 (Art, Chess, Student Council, Drama, Engineering, Hydroplane, Intramurals, Music)
2007-2008***	0	0
2006-2007***	0	0

***Data from Southern Leadership Academy

BoxTops for Education

We are a BoxTops for Education school! Please help Olmsted North by cutting out the BoxTops for Education labels on the items you use every day. Mrs. Kingsbury is collecting them in room 206.





We're on the Web!

You are encouraged to check out our updated website. The site provides wonderful parent links as well as information about our school.

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Schools/Middle/OlmstedNorth/index.html>

Parent Night Programs

Our Title I Parent Night Programs will be continuing for the spring semester. All programs begin at 6:00 p.m., with the exceptions of Parent/Teacher Conference Day, the CHAMPS Luncheon, and the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony. Please mark these dates on your calendars and make plans to join us to participate in all of the exciting things happening at Olmsted North.

- Thursday, January 21st Title I Arts and Humanities Night
- Monday, February 16 Parent/Teacher Conference Day (3pm-6pm)
- Thursday, February 25 Title I Social Studies Night
- Thursday, March 18 Title I Math Night
- Friday, March 26 CHAMPS Luncheon at 11:30 am
- Thursday, April 22 Title I Spring Literacy Night
- Thursday, May 28 8th grade Awards Ceremony
8:30 am for the Contenders
10:00 am for Determine Team/Street Sense



Report Card Dates

The district's grading policies were changed at the beginning of the year. Students must pass at least 4 of the six week grading periods (or complete course recovery each six weeks) in 66 2/3% of their classes in order to be promoted to the next grade. Additionally, they must complete a writing portfolio and for 8th graders score at least Apprentice on the KCCT test in Reading and Math.

Report cards will be sent home with your student on the following dates:

January 12

February 24

April 13

June 4 (mailed home)

To see the full JCPS calendar, please go to the following link:

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Calendars/Calendar.html>

Summer Reading at Olmsted Academy North



Our first summer reading program was a huge success! It was wonderful to see our young men so excited about the books they read over the summer. They turned in some excellent projects, and we'd like to thank you for helping your students get their projects in on time!

We'll be continuing the summer reading tradition this year, and we look forward to your support as we create strong academic expectations for our students. Watch for more information in the spring!

Making It Work at Olmsted Academy North

Our students are working very hard in the classroom, and they are building community through our CARE for Kids Program. Instructionally, our students are taking five 70 minutes classes a day. This increases instructional time for all subjects and allows students an opportunity for deeper exploration of the curriculum which creates a connection between the material and the world around them, resulting in a greater level of understanding.

In Math, our students learn through an instructional curriculum called Connected Math II, which is designed to give students a more in-depth understanding of math concepts and exposure to real world use of the material they are studying.

Our Science classes use the GE Science Modules, allowing students to understand the content better by experiencing hands on experiments and activities.

Language Arts classes focus on improving specific literacy skills through the integration of reading and writing.

In Social Studies classes, the teachers use the HistoryAlive Program to make history more meaningful and interesting to students through primary resources and fun activities.

Lastly, in Related Arts classes, students take a variety of courses in the areas of Music, Computer, Art, Arts and Humanities, Health, PE, Band, and Orchestra. Additionally, we provide intervention programs for students who need extra help with their reading skills through our Thinking Reader Program and an intense Reading intervention class.

Our school is also committed to building positive relationships with students. This year we are building on a new way of thinking and relating to each other, embodied in a district program called CARE for Kids. One component of the program is how we start off each day. Each morning students participate in a morn-

ing meeting, where they gather in a circle and greet each other before sharing some aspect of their thoughts or experiences with the group.

We do this in all grades, and our students have been very receptive. It makes for an engaging way to start each day, but more importantly it builds a strong sense of community within our school. This year we have added social contracts so that students can become more proactive partners in social learning. Additionally, teachers are using strategies such as Take a Break and Buddy Room to help students take responsibility for themselves and their actions. I believe that this program continues to result in fewer referrals, decreased assignments to ISAP, and a greater connection with teachers and staff.

Student life outside of the classroom has continued to improve dramatically in several areas. First, a student government has been created and includes elected officers from each team. This body, under the direction of Ms. Gilbert, helps make decisions for the school and gives students voice. Second, we have expanded clubs and activities this year; we have several exciting new offerings, including Adelante!, ETHICS Society, and Jazz Band. Finally, our Athletic Program has continued to grow and flourish under our Athletic Director, Jeff Phelps. We have added two new sports for students this year: Cross Country and Track. For the fall of 2010, we hope to add full tackle football, which will be a first for our school.

At Olmsted Academy North, we are working to educate the whole child and making huge strides toward our vision and mission, which remains Every Child Proficient and Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Today. This is the place to be, and we're glad to have you along with us on this journey.

First Fall Festival a HUGE Success!

Our first fall festival, organized by the PTSA was a smashing success! We'd like to thank everyone who came out to support Olmsted Academy North, especially all of our families and our neighbors within the community. We are looking forward to making this an annual tradition and will be working to make it bigger and better next year.

