



# Orange City Elementary

## Welcome to a new School Year!

September 2021

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to another great school year. The staff has worked hard over the summer to prepare and are ready to ensure that you and your child have a great year. Please don't hesitate to contact us anytime throughout the year if we can help in any way.

Our staff has seen several changes for this year. Mrs. Danielle Kleinhesselink is our new first grade teacher and Mrs. Jill Van Wyk is our new third grade teacher. We'd like to extend a warm welcome to both of these ladies as they begin their careers here at Orange City Elementary!

## Change in School Calendar for this Week

Our early dismissal this week will be on Thursday instead of Friday due to the funeral for Maddie Sanson who was a junior at MOC-FV High School. We will dismiss at 1:15 pm for town students and 1:25 pm for bus students on Thursday, Sept. 2nd and will have a normal full day on Friday, Sept. 3rd. If your child will be out of town on Friday after 1:15 PM, please let the office know and this absence will not count against your child's attendance records for the year.

## Student Safety at Orange City Elementary

In our continuing effort to provide as safe a learning environment as possible there are several things we want to make you aware of at Orange City Elementary.

1. Students leaving or entering the building once the school day has begun are required to sign in and out of the office. This allows us to keep an accurate record for each student's attendance while also ensuring where students are, at all times. Students leaving for appointments can simply report to the office to sign out and then meet you at the main entrance on the North side of the school.

2. All visitors to the building must use the North entrance and sign in at the office. All outside doors are locked once our day begins and are only unlocked at the end of the day. Once the school day has begun the only entrance for entry will be the North entrance. Students coming to school after the start of the day will need to use the North entrance and check in at the office. All visitors must contact the office via the door buzzer before being allowed to enter.

3. All volunteers will receive an identification tag when they sign in at the office. These identification tags are to be worn at all times volunteers will turn in the identification tags when they sign out of the office.

4. All teachers have two-way radios outside at recess and after school.

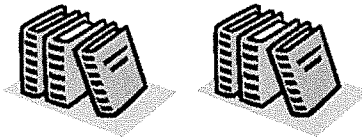
*Our hope is that the above steps will help ensure that Orange City Elementary continues to be a safe place for your child and our staff.*

# Reading Strategies at Orange City Elementary

Dear Parents,

This year, we will continue our school-wide Reading Strategies. Our strategy program supports our work towards the district's reading goals as well as the district's reading initiative. These seven reading strategies have also been a part of our continuing staff development over the last school year. We will use the school newsletter to introduce each of the seven reading strategies so that you can help your child practice them at home.

We all know that learning often requires repeated practice of the same skill or strategy. It is our hope that children will be able to apply these strategies when reading at home and at school.



## Making Connections While Reading

Our **first** reading strategy is *Making Connections While Reading*. Good readers make connections between new information being read and prior experiences. These connections generally take three forms:

- **Text-to-self** (when a piece of writing makes you think of your own life)
- **Text-to-text** (when a piece of writing reminds you of another piece of writing)
- **Text-to-world** (when a piece of writing reminds you of world knowledge)

Parents can help their child practice making connections by doing the following:

1. **Share the connections you make while** reading. Think out loud as you read together with your child. Statements might include, "I felt like the main character did when my best friend moved away in second grade." Highlight the connections you made while reading.
2. **When reading with your child at home, ask** him/her about connections when reading. After reading a passage together, ask "Does this remind you of any experiences you have had?" or "Does this remind you of another story you have read?"
3. **Take turns sharing connections aloud while** reading. Make sure that all the connections made help to improve understanding of the text.

**Read with your child and make the CONNECTION!**

## The 3 R's at Orange City Elementary

Years ago the three R's in school were reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. Now the three R's at OC Elementary are our three building rules. The teaching staff spent some time at the beginning of the year explaining the building rules so ask your children if they can name the three rules.

The first rule is respect yourself and deals with the students coming to school every day ready to learn. Ready to learn was explained to the students as consisting of dressing appropriately, eating breakfast, and coming to school happy. All three of these things are reflective of children who respect themselves.

The second rule is respect others. This is the Golden Rule and needed little explanation as most of the students were all familiar with this rule.

The third rule is responsibility for your actions and consists of saying you're sorry when you make a mistake, not repeating the same mistake twice, and realizing that consequences are involved when we make a mistake.

Parents, please take time to review these rules with your children. These new 3 R's will ensure that everyone knows the expectations here at OC Elementary. Thank you!

### 3 Rules at Orange City Elementary

1. Respect yourself
2. Respect others
3. Responsibility for your actions

## Dates to Remember in September

September 6th

Labor Day – No School

September 2, 10, 17, 24

Early outs-1:15 pm dismissal

September 9th

5th grade Instrument Display 7 pm

September 10th

School Pictures– TK-5th Grade

Check Us Out On the Web:

**[www.mocfv.org](http://www.mocfv.org)**

Phone Number:

**737-4606**

Fax Number:

**737-8006**

### Enrollment Numbers for 2021-2022

Transitional Kindergarten 22

Kindergarten 63

First Grade 73

Second Grade 73

Third Grade 74

Fourth Grade 73

Fifth Grade 61

Total= 439

## Beginning of the Year Information

Thank you for helping us with establishing the routine to the start of the day here at Orange City Elementary. By using multiple entrances we have been able to manage the flow of traffic. We appreciate the town students and walkers entering as close to 8 am as possible to further help mitigate the morning traffic.

To help keep students safe we ask that if you park on the west side of Delaware Avenue or the north side of 1st Street SW to PLEASE use the crosswalks to get your child. Although it is one way traffic before and after school we cannot have students crossing between cars. If you are unable to walk them across, please make sure your student uses the crosswalks.

If you need to drop off anything for your child at school please use the north main entrance and we will buzz you in. There is a table in the lobby and you can simply write your child's name and classroom on the Post-It notes and we will get the item to your child.

Student breakfast and lunch is FREE to all students this school year through the Federal Food Program. Most students will have the opportunity to have milk or juice during a classroom break time during the day. This milk or juice is optional and is not covered by the Federal Food Program. Students are charged \$.35 for each milk/juice they purchase. Money can be placed on the family lunch account to cover these purchases via the Infinite Campus parent portal or by sending cash or a check to the school office. Approximately \$7.00 covers the cost of one milk/juice per day for one student for one month.

September 2021

# Parents Make the Difference!

## Read Aloud to Build Listening, Memory Skills

Even if your child knows how to read, continue reading aloud to her. Reading aloud not only gives you important quality time with your child it exposes her to ideas, concepts and vocabulary she might not get otherwise.

Each time you read aloud, you add to her storehouse of knowledge and build her reading comprehension skills.

To boost her vocabulary skills as you read, define words your child doesn't know. Ask if she can think of words that have similar or opposite meaning.

See if she can figure out the meaning of an unknown word by how it's used in a sentence. Give examples of how the word might be used in another context. For example, note how a stop sign is different from when you sign your name.

As you read, you can work on other skills:

- **Listening and Speaking Skills** - After reading a passage, have your child tell you what she heard. Ask specific questions- What did . . . Do? Why? Where . . . ?

How . . . ?

- **Memory** - Don't just start reading where you left off in a book the night before. First ask your child if she remembers where you were in the story.

- **Word Recognition** - Stop at points in the story. Ask your child to read a sentence or two to you. Help her sound out new words. Then have her read the sentences again.

## How do other parents discipline their children?

It's happened again. Your child had a meltdown in the grocery store. Or the teacher called to say he lost his temper on the playground.

How do other parents get their kids to behave? They know that discipline is really a matter of being consistent. They work with their children to set clear rules. They make sure their kids know what happens if the rules are broken. Then they follow through-every time. Here are some other tips on helping your kids behave:

- **Help your child see why rules matter.** Talk about school rules, and let your child know you support them.
- **Listen to your child.** If he has problems try to work them out together.
- **Make sure your behavior matches the behavior you want to see in your child.**

## Building Responsibility

Each day, you may do things for your child that he can now do himself. Perhaps you still pack your fifth grader's lunch or make your second grader's bed.

Not only are you spending your time, but you are also keeping your kids from taking responsibility. Make a list of things you do for your child. Decide on one task you think he could do by himself.

Teach him what he needs to know to do the task by himself. Then turn the task over to your child. You'll be giving him a helping hand on the road to maturity.

## Teach the Importance of Treating Others with Respect

To help your child make friends, model the qualities that make it possible to attract and keep friends. Be kind to your child and others. Don't gossip about your friends. Be available when your friends need help. Also teach your child to:

- **Be polite.** Say "excuse me," "I'm sorry," "Please" and "Thank you."
- **Be a good sport.** Look out for the welfare of his entire team, not just himself.
- **Be assertive.** Stand up for what's right, without being aggressive.
- **Spend some time alone.** Kids who enjoy their own company don't always need to be the center of attention.

# September 2021

| Sun      | Mon                             | Tue         | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 August | 2<br>Day 6                      | 3<br>Day 1  | 1<br>Day 2                                    | 2<br>Day 3<br><br>Early Dismissal<br>1:15 PM              | 3<br>Day 4<br><br>Regular School<br>Hours<br>3:15 PM<br>Dismissal                                   | 4   |
| 5        | 6<br>No School<br><br>Labor Day | 7<br>Day 5  | 8<br>Day 6                                    | 9<br>Day 1<br><br>5th Grade<br>Instrument<br>Display 7 PM | 10<br>Day 2<br><br>Early Dismissal<br>1:15 PM<br>Picture Day :)<br><br>Mrs. Riskedahl's<br>Birthday | 11  |
| 12       | 13<br>Day 3                     | 14<br>Day 4 | 15<br>Day 5                                   | 16<br>Day 6   | 17<br>Day 1<br><br>Early Dismissal<br>1:15 PM<br><br>Mrs. De Jong's<br>Birthday                     | 18  |
| 19       | 20<br>Day 2                     | 21<br>Day 3 | 22<br>Day 4<br><br>Mrs. Beltman's<br>Birthday | 23<br>Day 5   | 24<br>Day 6<br><br>Early Dismissal<br>1:15 PM   | 25  |
| 26       | 27<br>Day 1                     | 28<br>Day 2 | 29<br>Day 3                                   | 30<br>Day 4   | 1 October<br>Day 5<br><br>Early Dismissal<br>1:15 PM  | 2   |