



# Orange City Elementary

**Welcome to Another School Year!**

**September 2019**

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. Heather Hofmeyer has moved to 4th grade with our large class. Mrs. Reba Marra has joined our Transitional Kindergarten staff. We have also added three new aides; Mrs. Susan Snieder, Mrs. Renee Rhamy and Mrs. Pam Schmit. We are pleased to have these new additions join our group.

## **Your Child's 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 or you can sign them out while waiting for them to come from class.

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

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

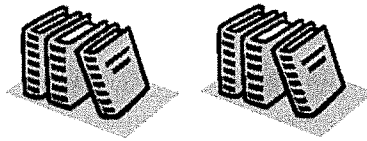
*Our hope is that the above steps will help ensure that Orange City Elementary continues to be a safe place for your child and our staff.*

# 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, 20th

September 12th

September 13th

Early outs-1:15 pm dismissal

5th grade Instrument Display 7 PM

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 2019-20

Transitional Kindergarten	34
Kindergarten	70
First Grade	75
Second Grade	68
Third Grade	62
Fourth Grade	77
Fifth Grade	67

Total= 453

## **Box Tops For Education Ending Soon**

Orange City Elementary will again be participating in the Box Tops for Education program, sponsored by General Mills until they discontinue the program later this year. Last school year we earned over \$3000 which was used to purchase new library books and for incentives used in the Reading Counts Program. Please continue to tear off these pink or red labels from General Mills cereals, fruit snacks, cake mixes, frostings, etc. The labels may be turned into the collection boxes in the classroom or in the office. This year our volunteer coordinator is Nov Van Regenmorter.

## **Beginning of the Year Information**

**Please do not allow your child to arrive before 8 a.m.– wanting to play before school is not a reason to arrive early. The school day begins at 8:10 a.m. so there is no reason for students to arrive before the 8 a.m. bell unless they are eating breakfast. We start serving breakfast at 7:45 am each morning.**

**All students need to enter the building at either the North or South entrances. These entrances are monitored for student safety.**

**Our minimum lunch payment is \$20. Please include your child's name on the check. Please note that student lunches cost \$2.00 each day. On average \$45.00 will cover student meals for one month.**

***We ask that parents eat with their child only once per semester. If you do plan to eat with your child please let the office know by 10:00 AM. Adult meals are \$3.72 this year.***

**Attached is a map of the school explaining how traffic flows for school. If you pick up or drop off your children for school please look it over. We want to ensure our students are safe!**

**This school year classroom milk break money will use the same account as lunch money-remember that 35 cents will be taken out of your family account for each milk or juice your child takes at break time. The milk at lunch is included in the lunch meal price. It is an average of \$8 per month if your child takes a milk at break each day. Milk at break time is not required and we have many students who choose not to have milk at their break.**

September 2019

# 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 sto-

## 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.

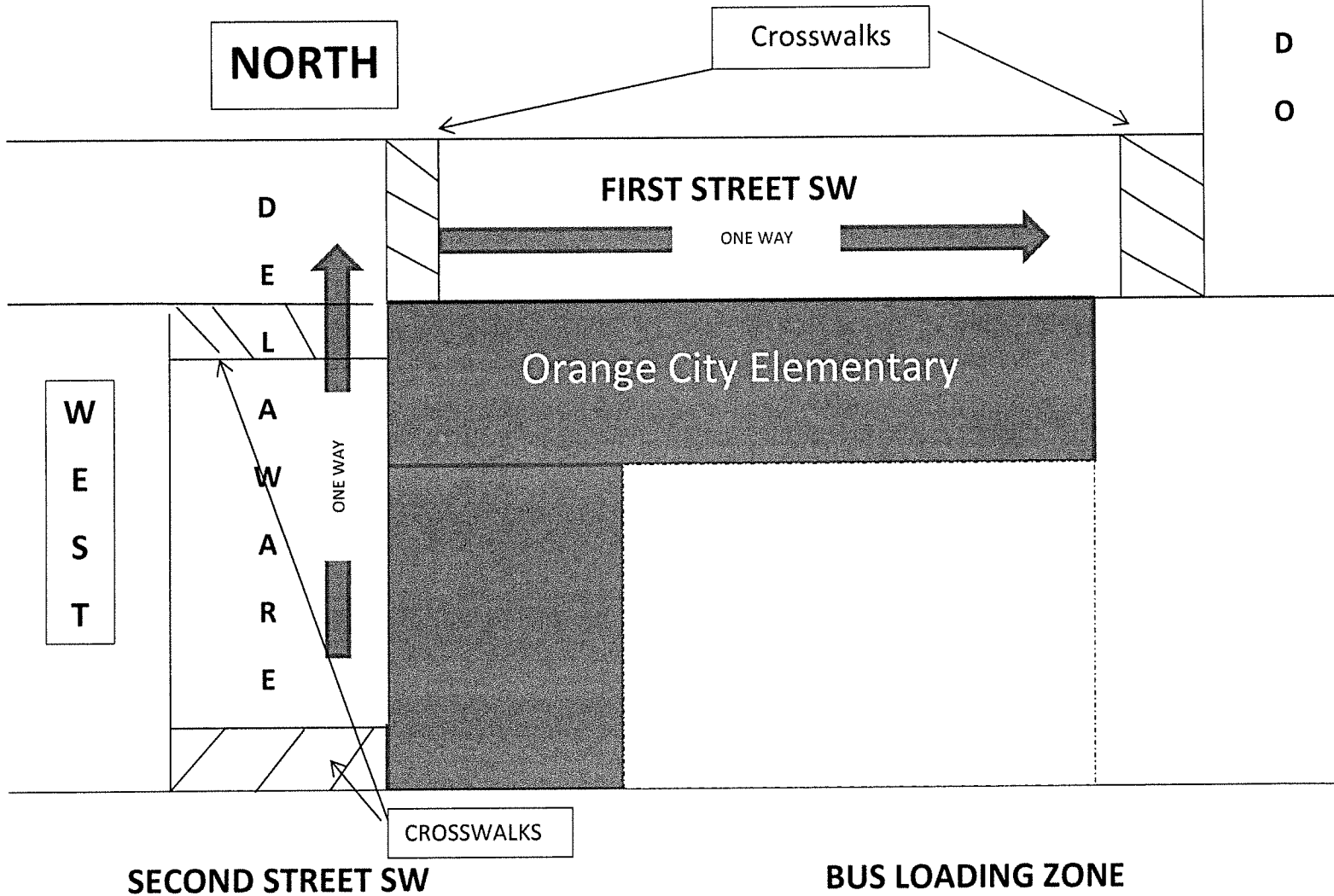
## Teach the Importance of Treating Others with Respect

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.

# Traffic Concerns at Orange City Elementary

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1. Although First Street is not considered a one way street at 11:20 am please park only on the **south** side of First Street so we can avoid children crossing the street.
2. Try to use the angle parking if possible so you don't block other cars in.
3. Please do not park where the daycare bus parks which is right in front of the North entry between the angled parking areas.
4. Be extra careful on Fridays as we will have both the AM and PM TK students entering and leaving at the same time.

**Thank you for keeping our children safe!!**

# September 2019

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