

Cougar Connect

August 16, 2024



Newsletter Table of Contents

Recurring News:

- A Note From Mrs. McDonald, Principal
- FYI and Save-the-Date
- ✨*DEI Spotlight *[✨]
- Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) News

Recent News:

- Join the OTE Team
- Greetings from Mrs. Harsch, Counselor
- Welcome to Overland Trail Elementary | Amanda Sutherland
- Bus Zone | Know Your Child Got on the Bus Safely
- Title I at Overland Trail Elementary
- Weekend Food Pack Program

Repeat News:

- PickUp Patrol (PUP)
- Strategic Plan Survey | Due August 21, 2024
- Glow Night Out!
- Attendance Message to Parents and Caregivers
- Boundary Adjustments
- Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
- Durham Bus Services
- Café (Cafeteria)
- Safety Expectations | Food Deliveries
- General Reminders for Visitors During the School Day
- Back-to-School Events
- YMCA Fall Enrollment
- Communication
- Personal Devices
- 3-12th Grade Opt-In Option for Securly Filter

- Birthday Policy
- Nut-Safer Guidelines
- Helpful Links (i.e., Kindergarten Tidbits, School Supply Lists, Family Handbook, etc.)



A Note From Mrs. McDonald

Dear Families,

Today was a fun and fast end to the week. Thank you, PTO, for graciously dropping Sonic drinks to our staff—we are immensely grateful for your support to start this new school year.

It was so wonderful to see many of you at our Sneak-a- Peek this past Monday. The energy and excitement that was seen and felt was contagious, as many of our Cougars anticipated the start of the school year.

We have completed the first four full school days of the school year for grades first through fifth, and the first three full days for our kindergarten students. During these first days of the school year, our staff focused on building relationships with our students and setting the expectations for the Overland Trail Elementary school community.

A Note From PTO:

In an effort to ensure all teachers and classrooms are supported yearlong, please only sign up to be a Room Parent in ONE class. Follow this link to sign up: www.otepto.org/room-parent-signup

We are excited for another great year!

Erin Schepmann & Megan Smail
(erinschepmann@gmail.com & meg.wilmoth@gmail.com)

As we head into the first full week of school, families, please be sure to tune into communication from your child's teacher and the administration to avoid missing important information.

I wish you a wonderful weekend, families.

Kindly,
Erica McDonald
Principal



Save-the-Date

August

Wednesday, August 21: (Grade 5) Back to School Night; 4:30-5:30
Thursday, August 22: (Grades K-4) Back to School Night; 5:00-6:00
Thursday, August 22: Back to School Parent Social; 6:00 PM at
Rock & Brews

Friday, August 23: Cougar All School Assembly; 9:00 AM

Friday, August 23: Skate Party at Skate City; 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Thursday, August 29: Blue Valley Education Foundation Community Breakfast

Friday, August 30: No School | Teacher Professional Collaboration

September

Monday, September 2: No School | Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3: No School | Teacher Professional Collaboration

Friday, September 6: PTO Board Meeting; 9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Friday, September 6: Birthday Book Lunch: August, September, and October Birthdays

Friday, September 6: Author Visit | Grades 3-5

Wednesday, September 11: PTO Community Service

Friday, September 13: PTO Teacher Grants Due

Friday, September 20: Picture Day | Individual and Classroom

Friday, September 22: Birthday Book Lunch

Thursday, September 26: First Grade Field Trip | Ernie Miller Tipi @ OTE

Friday, September 27: No School | Teacher Professional Collaboration

Friday, September 27: OTE Carnival; 5:30 PM-8:00 PM

The PTO is already in full swing for the year ahead. Follow these simple steps to ensure you don't miss any of the fun!

otepto.org

☆☆ DEI Spotlight ☆☆

Dear families,

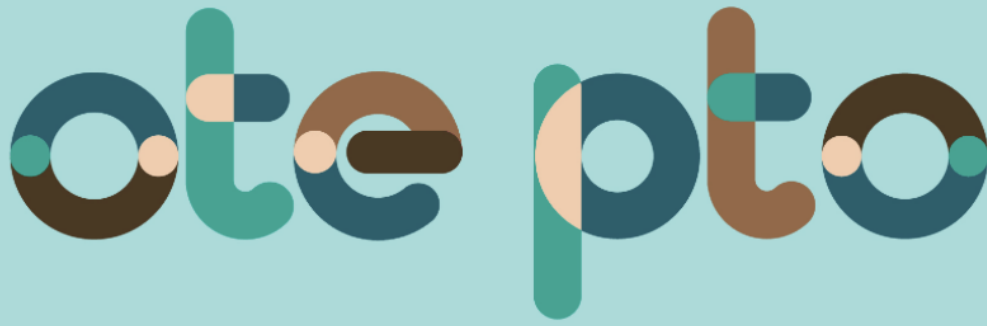
Did you know that Overland Trail Elementary (OTE) is one of the most culturally diverse schools in the Blue Valley School District? This attribute makes OTE a special place and something we want to celebrate more. We are excited to build a parent community with parent involvement that reflects our student and family population. Being inclusive and bringing together community members from different backgrounds and experiences is critical to accomplish the goals set.

Do you have insight to contribute? All parents and guardians are invited to be members of the Overland Trail Elementary DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Council, which includes parents, caregivers, staff, and students. We welcome you to participate, even if your English is not as strong as you would prefer. You can join the warm community by listening, providing input, and planning ways to support Overland Trail Elementary's inclusive efforts.

Please complete the following form, DEI Council | Family Interest, and a member of the DEI Council will contact you soon. For previous members, we ask for you to complete the form, too. Thank you for helping us celebrate the fantastic Overland Trail Elementary community.

[DEI Council | Family Interest](#)

Erica McDonald
Principal



PTO Events | August

PTO Back to School Checklist

1. Visit otepto.org.
2. Login or create a FREE account by clicking the "Login" button.
3. Complete the Family Information and Publish Preference forms under "My Account". By doing this you'll receive your child's Field Trip shirt for the 24/25 school year.
4. Consider a PTO membership. Click "Register" to join. This funding helps support PTO programs.
5. Explore! Buy carnival tickets, check out the calendar of events, and follow the PTO on Facebook and Instagram.



**OVERLAND TRAIL
THE ERAS CARNIVAL**

Fall Carnival Sponsorship Opportunities

The Overland Trail Elementary PTO will be hosting our school's Fall Carnival on September 27th, 2024. This year's theme is "The Eras Carnival" and will be one of the PTO's major fundraisers for the year. We are currently seeking sponsors and donors for this event. You can help support your local Cougars while promoting your business at the upcoming Carnival. All the money collected will support OTE PTO's 20+ committees set up to enrich and benefit OTE's students, families, and staff. Any amount or

donation is greatly appreciated!

View all the sponsorship details and secure your spot on our PTO website at <https://otepto.membershiptoolkit.com/carnival-sponsors>.



PTO Calendar of Events

For a complete list of all upcoming PTO events, visit [Overland Trail Elementary PTO - Upcoming Events \(otepto.org\)](https://otepto.org).

Thursday, August 22th - Back to School Parent Social @ 6 PM at Rock & Brews

Immediately following Back to School Night. Pop in, meet and socialize with other OTE parents at Rock & Brews.

Friday, August 23th - Back to School Skate Party @ Skate City - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

A percent of the OTE sales come back to the PTO.

Friday, September 27 - The Eras Carnival coming to OTE

Tickets to The Eras Carnival are on sale now! Perks to pre-ordering wristbands: fast pass entrance, carnival t-shirt*, and swag bag.* Click to pre-order! [Overland Trail Elementary PTO - Carnival \(otepto.org\)](https://otepto.org)

*Place your order by September 1st to guarantee t-shirt size. Swag bags guaranteed for first 400 students.



Join the OTE Team

We are currently seeking a Part-time REAL/Library Para to join our Overland Trail Elementary team. The details of this position are listed below. If you have interest in this position, or know of someone who may be interested, please click this [link](#) to apply.

Days of the week for this position: Thursday & Friday plus every other Wednesday

What the day looks like:

- REAL (Reading for Enjoyment and Appreciation Literature)
 - Create lessons
 - Can pull from lessons from the past several years
 - Also, take turns creating with our other part-time para
 - For kindergarten - 2nd grade
 - 30-minute rotation and splits time with Computer classes
 - Usually consists of reading several books and a related activity
- Library Responsibilities
 - Help students find books and answer questions
 - Check-in books and reshelve
 - Place and check interlibrary loans
 - Pull books for teachers
 - Other fun activities
- Before & after school duties

- Breakfast
- Assist with dismissal

Listing:

Overland Trail Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional

Part-time

18 hours per week

No benefits

Greetings from Mrs. Harsch, Counselor

Hello Overland Trail Elementary! I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. I am so excited to welcome back our students and community members. For all new families, OTE is a wonderful place to be! I believe in working together to make sure your child is safe, happy, and successful! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you.

My name is Emily Harsch, and this is my 3rd year as school counselor at OTE! I am from Leawood, Kansas and graduated from K-State with a degree in elementary education. I taught first grade for nine years before completing my masters in counseling from Fort Hays State. This is my 12th year in the Blue Valley School District. I am married and have one child, a little boy named Hank! He will be one on October 1st!

My job, as the school counselor, is to advocate for ALL students. Our comprehensive program consists of a wide range of services and activities; this includes individual and group counseling, parent and teacher consultation, teaching classroom lessons, information services, and referral assistance to other programs and services in the community.

I am so excited to get to continue to work with the amazing students, staff, and community members here at OTE!

Lastly, I will be lunching with all students new to OTE next week. I look forward to getting to know our newest Cougars.

I am here to help you and your children, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Sincerely

Emily Harsch

OTE School Counselor

eharsch@bluevalleyk12.org

913-239-7017



**Welcome to
OVERLAND TRAIL ELEMENTARY!**



WELCOME TO



Overland Trail Elementary

Amanda Sutherland

SCHOOLING: I GREW UP IN LEAWOOD. I WENT TO NATIVITY FOR K-8 AND SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS FOR HIGH SCHOOL. I THEN WENT TO DRAKE UNIVERSITY IN DES MOINES, IA. AFTER GRADUATING FROM DRAKE I GOT A KINDERGARTEN TEACHING JOB IN THE OLATHE SCHOOL DISTRICT. AND HAVE BEEN TEACHING KINDERGARTEN THERE FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS! I OBTAINED MY MASTER'S DEGREE DURING THIS TIME THROUGH BAKER UNIVERSITY.

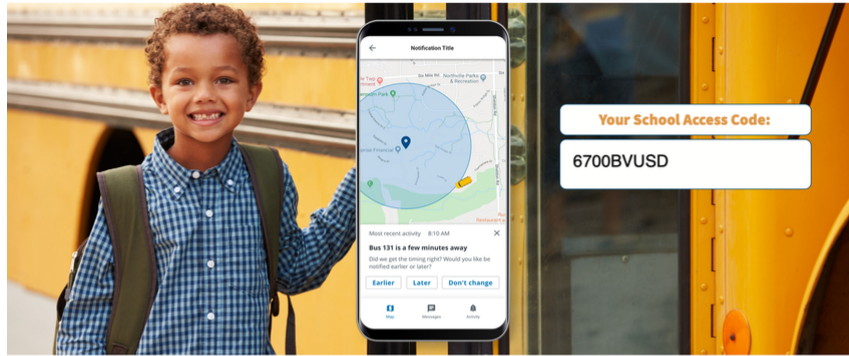
NUMBER OF YEARS WORKING IN SCHOOLS:
13 YEARS

YOUR ROLE AT OTE: 2ND GRADE TEACHER

FUN FACT ABOUT ME: I PLAYED COLLEGE SOCCER AT DRAKE UNIVERSITY. I LOVE THE GREEN BAY PACKERS (GO PACK GO!). AND I'M A MOM OF TWO! MY SON WILL BE A KINDERGARTENER AT OTE THIS UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR AND MY DAUGHTER IS THREE YEARS OLD!



Bus Zone | Know Your Child Got on the Bus Safely



Know your child got on the bus safely.

Lighten your daily load.

Raising children is a tough job. This easy-to-use mobile app allows you to check on the school bus whenever you want.

Set up BusZone:

1. Download the BusZone app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Enter the above School Access Code.
3. In the search field, enter the bus or route number you want to follow.
Complete this step for all the buses your students ride throughout the week.
4. Enter your child's unique student ID.
5. Create alert zones around drop-off and pick-up points.

When your child's bus enters an alert zone, you will receive notification by email or text.

Trust that your information is secure.

Security is priority one, especially where student information is concerned. All parent/guardian information is locked down and password protected within the app to prevent unauthorized people from opening the app and viewing the child's bus information.

Have questions? Need more information?

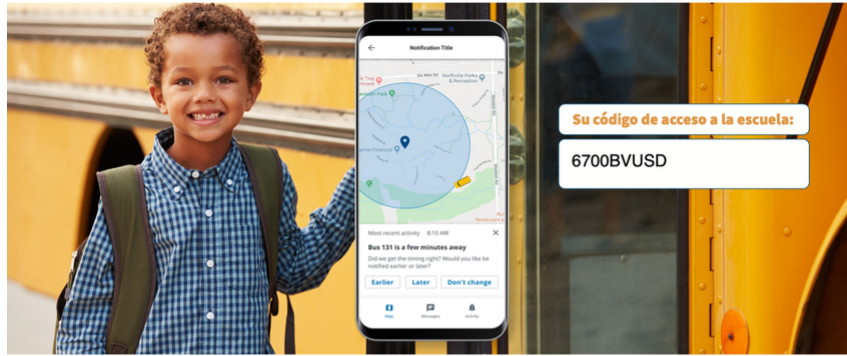
Email buszone6700@nellc.com

Key features

- View a real-time, map-based bus locator
- Guarantee parent/guardian and student information privacy
- Create custom zones for each stop and facility
- Send email alerts and SMS messages
- Available on smartphones and tablets



Learn how to use BusZone
Scan the QR code to see the user guide.



Le da tranquilidad.

Alivie su carga diaria.

Criar niños no es fácil. Esta aplicación móvil sencilla le permite verificar la ubicación del autobús escolar cuando quiera.

Configuración de BusZone:

1. Descargue la aplicación BusZone desde App Store o Google Play.
2. Ingrese el código de acceso de la escuela que figura arriba.
3. En el campo de búsqueda, ingrese el número de autobús o de ruta que desee seguir. Complete este paso para todos los autobuses que sus estudiantes utilizan durante la semana.
4. Ingrese la identificación única de estudiante de su hijo.
5. Cree zonas de alerta alrededor de los puntos donde su hijo se sube y baja del autobús.

Cuando el autobús ingresa en una zona de alerta, usted recibirá una notificación por correo electrónico o mensaje de texto.

Confíe en que su información está resguardada.

La seguridad es prioridad, especialmente cuando se trata de la información de un estudiante. En la aplicación, toda la información de los padres o tutores está bloqueada y protegida con contraseña para evitar que personas no autorizadas ingresen a la aplicación y vean la información del autobús del niño.

Para obtener respuestas sobre la configuración y la asistencia, envíe un correo electrónico a buszone6700@ncllc.com

Características importantes

- Acceso al localizador del autobús basado en mapas en tiempo real
- Garantía de confidencialidad en la información del estudiante y de los padres o tutores
- Creación de zonas personalizadas para cada parada y ubicación
- Envío de alertas por correo electrónico y mensajes de texto
- Disponible en teléfonos inteligentes y tabletas



Aprenda Cómo Usar BusZone. Escanee el Código QR para ver la guía del usuario.

Title I at Overland Trail Elementary

Dear Families,

Overland Trail Elementary School has been identified as an official Title I school, based on the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch benefits. Title I is a federal program where select schools receive targeted funds to provide additional reading support.

Federal guidelines mandate that Title I schools provide parents with a “right to know.” As a parent, you have the right to know information regarding qualifications of your child’s classroom teachers. This information can be found at <https://appspublic.ksde.org/TLL/SearchLicense.aspx>.

As a parent, you also have the right to view both district and building report cards, which can be found by going to www.bluevalleyk12.org, scrolling down to “District Quick Links” and selecting “Accountability Reports.” Parents also have the right to request access to students’ state assessment scores. These will also be shared via the KITE Parent Portal around the end of the school year.

Thank you,
Erica McDonald
Principal, Overland Trail Elementary



Weekend Food Pack Program

To help alleviate food insecurity, Community for Kids partners with Overland Trail Elementary to provide one bag of non-perishable food items to participating children each week during the school year. Bag distribution will begin on Thursday, September 5 for families that opt-in by August 18. Families can opt-in throughout

the school year and distribution of the bags will continue weekly. Bags are typically distributed at school each Thursday, except during breaks. Participation is free and optional.

If your child could benefit from access to more food and you would like your child to participate and receive a weekend food pack, simply complete the brief online [form](#). No additional information is needed.

Contact Lacey Koester, school social worker, with any questions or concerns. She can be reached by phone at 913-239-7029 and by email at lkoester@bluevalleyk12.org.

PickUp Patrol (PUP)

OTE Families,

Returning families can log onto [PickUp Patrol](#) using the same login information as last year and indicate your child's default plans for pickup.

New families will receive an email from [PickUp Patrol](#) to register. Please be sure to look for this link within the next 24 hours and if you do not receive this email, please send an email to Debby Alexander at DAAlexander@bluevalleyk12.org with your child's first and last name along with how your child will dismiss each day.

Thank you,
Debby Alexander
Attendance Secretary

Strategic Plan Survey| Due August 21, 2024

The 2024-25 school year is an exciting time in Blue Valley Schools as we have the opportunity to look to the future while refreshing our strategic plan.

Your input is invaluable as we prioritize the goals and initiatives that will guide us through 2030. This survey is your chance to voice what you believe should be our top priorities, ensuring that our plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

☞ [2025-30 Strategic Plan Survey](#) (3-5 minute survey)

The survey will remain open through Aug. 21. For more information about the strategic planning process, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/strategicplan.

Glow Night Out!

GLOW NIGHT OUT!

WITH THE NORTH STARS DANCE TEAM

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 6-9PM

BLUE VALLEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL



AGES 5-12 - BOYS AND GIRLS
WELCOME

\$40/KID
DISCOUNTS FOR
SIBLINGS



Attendance Message to Parents and Caregivers

Every day Overland Trail Elementary opens its doors to students for a day filled with learning. When a student does not arrive at school or unexpectedly misses a portion of the school day, we are concerned and want to ensure you know that your child is absent.

Beginning Thursday, August 15, families will be notified of unexpected absences through email, phone, text, and optional push notifications. Overland Trail Elementary families can expect automated attendance messages by email, phone, and text at 9:35 AM. if a child is absent and his/her absence has not already been reported by a parent/guardian. The parent or caregiver must call the school to report an absence or reply to the automated email or phone message.

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. A push notification will immediately be sent to the parent or caregiver's mobile device if a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance.

Interested in push notifications? Download the ParentVUE app ([iTunes app store](#) or [Google Play](#)), enable push notifications in device settings, and select attendance notifications through in-app settings.

Guide to elementary school attendance messages



Automated Attendance Message

Families will receive automated attendance messages via email, phone and text message at 9:35 a.m. if a child is absent and his/her absence has not been reported by a parent/guardian. Forgot to report an absence? No worries, reply directly to the phone call or email.



Push Notifications

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. If a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance, then a push notification will immediately be sent to the parent/guardian's mobile device.

Attendance Procedures

If your child will miss school, please call the Overland Trail Elementary attendance line at 913-239-7005 or email the attendance line at attendanceOTE@bluevalleyk12.org.

Please include your child's name (first and last), grade level, classroom teacher, and reason for the absence. If leaving a message, please make sure you speak slowly and clearly. It is always helpful to repeat the information as well. The Blue Valley School District has amended the district's attendance policy (Board Policy 3200). **Students will be permitted *seven* excused absences during the school year for family emergencies, vacations, and personal business.** Send a note to the teacher and the office if your child is on vacation. Separate letters should be written for each child.

Attendance Reporting and Notifications

Families can expect automated attendance messages by email and text if a child is absent and their absence has not already been reported by a parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to report an absence or reply to the automated phone message.

What is the purpose of attendance notifications?

We realize that students may occasionally need to miss school for planned absences, illnesses, and appointments. However, when a student does not arrive at school or unexpectedly misses a portion of the school day, we are concerned and want to ensure you know your child is absent.

How can I get push notifications?

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. A push notification will immediately be sent to the parent/guardian's mobile device if a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance.

Are you interested in push notifications? Download the ParentVUE app ([iTunes app store](#) or [Google Play](#)), enable push notifications in device settings, and select attendance notifications through in-app settings. Once the app is downloaded, [these instructions](#) will help you complete the setup.



Boundary Adjustments

Board approves boundary adjustments for 2024-25 school year
At the June 12 Board of Education meeting, the board approved the 2022-23 Facility Planning Committee's report, including boundary adjustments that address elementary school enrollment and building capacity issues. The approved boundary adjustments impact several schools to keep contiguous attendance areas.

Boundary adjustments approved for the 2024-25 school year include:

- Deer Creek boundaries will be adjusted to attend Overland Trail Elementary.
- Sandstone Creek, Savoy, and Plaza Gardens boundaries will be adjusted to attend Harmony Elementary. This adjustment will also include a change in feeder pattern to Harmony Middle and Blue Valley Northwest.
- Glen Abbey & Villas of Chapel Green and Highland Villas and Highlands Creek boundaries will be adjusted to attend Prairie Star Elementary. This adjustment will also include a change in feeder pattern to Prairie Star Middle and Blue Valley High.

The committee's work, including documents, maps, and presentations, can be found on the [district's website](#).

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

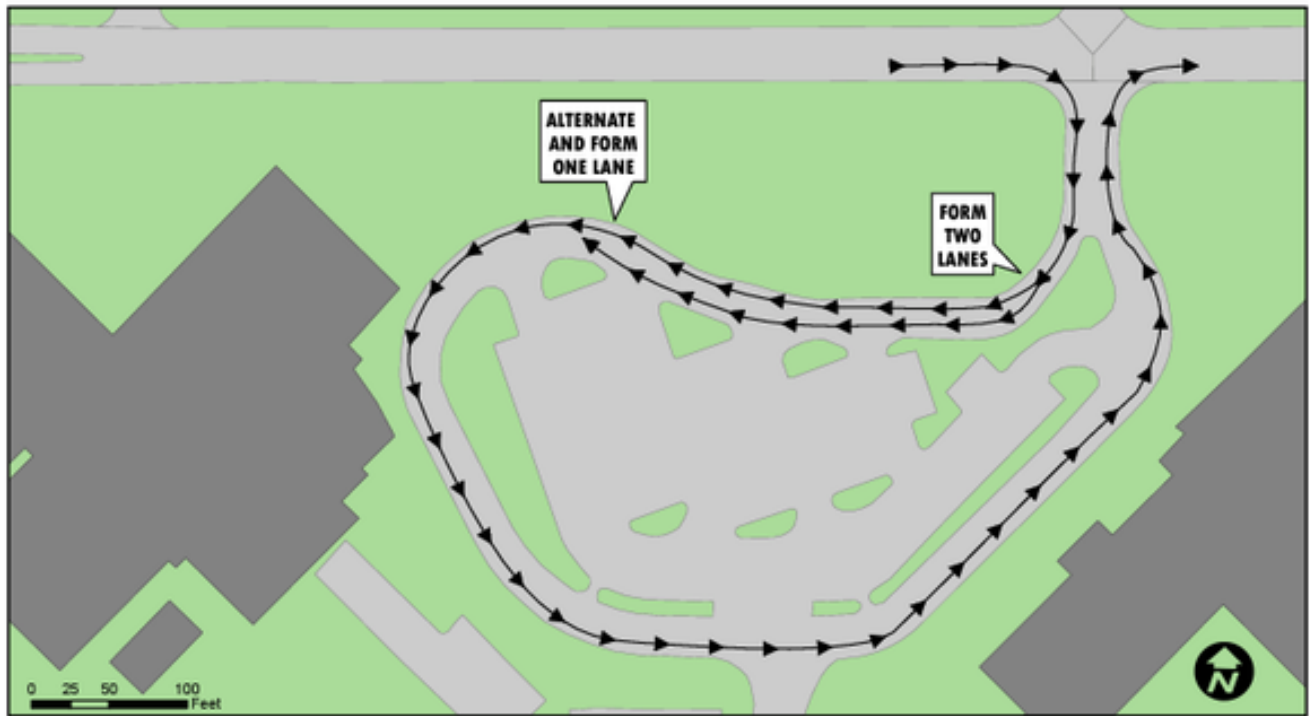
Arrival Procedures:

1. **Our school doors open at 8:25 AM.** Children should not arrive before 8:25 AM.
2. School begins at 8:40 AM. After 8:40 AM, students are considered tardy. A parent or guardian must come to the school's front entrance with their photo id to have their child signed in if they arrive at school later than 8:40 AM.
3. The crosswalk will be closed starting at 8:25 AM. If your student needs extra assistance, park in the parking lot closest to the playground. Do not park in the main parking lot.
4. Students should remain buckled in their seats until the vehicle stops in the traffic loop.
5. Cell phones should not be used while in the traffic loop.
6. **Drivers in the car line will need to always drive completely to the front to ensure the car line is a fluid and efficient process for student arrival.** Vehicles in the traffic loop will have the right of way and will be given priority over families walking or going to the parking lot.

Dismissal Procedures:

1. **Dismissal begins at 3:35 PM.** Our goal is to complete dismissal by 4:00 PM.
2. Students who walk home will exit the building through the exit doors on the North side of the building.
3. Students who walk home cannot stay on the OTE campus. Y-Care utilizes the building and playground after school, Monday-Friday.
4. **Car line drivers may not be in the car line sooner than 3:00 PM to avoid conflicting with the middle school traffic.**

Overland Trail Elementary Traffic Flow



Car Rider Pick-up and Drop-off Requirements

In order to reduce the number of cars that must line up along 133rd Street, please form two lines at the location indicated.

As you approach the pick up/drop off area, please zipper merge and form one line.



Map created by Blue Valley School District
Finance & Operations Department
(Supporting data provided by Johnson County AIMS
December, 2020)



Durham Bus Services

If you wish for your child to be a bus rider, please visit the bus website to sign them up:

[Durham Bus Services](#). You can also sign up for text message

alerts for your student's bus.

Café (Cafeteria)

The breakfast and lunch menus can be found online [here](#). You can also download the Nutrislice app to access daily/weekly menus.

We will be excited to welcome visitors to our lunchroom again this year, starting after Labor Day, Wednesday, September 4. We will practice café routines and procedures for the first couple of weeks. As a reminder, we ask that you and your child enjoy your lunch at the table designated for students and their visitor(s).

Safety Expectations | Food Deliveries

- Food delivery services disrupt the learning environment and pose a potential security concern. Various doors have been utilized, and most delivery service providers have unfamiliar faces that are challenging to verify.
- We will not accept meals delivered by paid delivery services during the school day for students. These deliveries will be refused.



General Reminder for Visitors During the School Day

Our office staff wants to share a general reminder that all elementary schools in the district utilize the buzz-in entry system for visitors during the school day. Visitors will need to come to the front of the school. At the front entrance, visitors will press the buzzer, show government-issued photo identification, and state the purpose of their visit each time they visit the school. **If you**

arrive without identification, the office will seek the administration's approval for entry.

We ask that guests not hold the door open for another visitor once they have been buzzed in. Instead, allow the door to close for visitors to go through the above-mentioned procedures. We appreciate the support of our safety procedures.

Overland Trail Elementary will open for visitors after Labor Day beginning Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

Back to School Events

(Grades 5) Back-to-School Night: Wednesday, August 21 | 4:30 PM-5:30PM

Back-to-School Night will take place on Wednesday, August 21.

This event is where you will have the opportunity to learn more about your child's classroom and receive pertinent information that will enable you to navigate the year easily. Additionally, you will learn how to volunteer with the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and contribute to your child's classroom events for the school year. Overall, the one-hour will be spent with your child's fifth grade teacher. **Please arrive promptly at 4:30, as this session will not be an open house. For additional details, please contact your child's fifth grade teacher.**



(Grades K-4) Back-to-School Night: Thursday, August 22 | 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Back-to-School Night will take place on Thursday, August 22. This event is where you will have the opportunity to learn more about your child's classroom and receive pertinent information that will enable you to navigate the year easily. Additionally, you will learn how to volunteer with the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and contribute to your child's classroom events for the school year. Overall, the one-hour open house will allow you to visit multiple classrooms, general education, and beyond for Back-to-School Night and provide flexibility with how much time you spend in each learning space.

YMCA Fall Enrollment Open

For parents unfamiliar with Y-Club, the YMCA operates within district elementary schools during the school year. The program opens at 7:00 AM daily for early drop-off and stays open until 6:00 PM. Please [click here](#) to find out where to learn more or register for the 2024-2025 school year.

Incoming Kindergarten Information

Please click [here](#) to register your incoming Kindergarten student and gain the most recent information shared with incoming Kindergarten families.

Communication



Cougar Connect: Cougar Connect, the parent and caregiver newsletter, will be shared at the end of each school week. These newsletters tend to be packed with information to keep you updated and included in our school's events and activities. This newsletter will also include Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) communication. Please read each newsletter and let us know if you have any questions.



Attendance:

- Email: attendanceote@bluevalleyk12.org
- Phone: (913) 239-7005

Dismissal Changes:

- Website: PickUpPatrol.net (more information forthcoming).

School Office:

- Email: oteos@bluevalleyk12.org
- Phone: (913) 239-7000



Personal Devices

To provide the most effective learning spaces possible, the following guidelines concerning personal cell phones (CP) and associated personal technology devices (PTD) at the elementary school level are in effect. Cell phones and personal technological devices are any devices designed for personal communication, digital information transfer, or electronic gaming/play.

Cell phones and personal technology devices are not allowed to be used by elementary school students during the school day. The school day is defined as anytime the student is on campus property on a day school is in session. CP/PTDs are to be silenced stowed away at all times. Should the need arise for a student to contact parents during the school day, the main office phone or the classroom phone should be used for such a call. Should the need arise for parents to contact their child, the main office phone should be used for such a call. CP/PTDs may be used by the student only at the request of the classroom teacher or other staff member. CP/PTDs used to monitor identified student health needs, such as blood sugar levels, are allowed and must be approved by the principal.

Grades 3-12 | Grade Opt-In Option for Securly Filter

Parents and caregivers can now choose to place their 3-12th grade students in the High Restrictions Filter Group for their district-issued device by signing up [here](#). The link details the differences between the Default and High Restrictions Policies.

Birthday Policy

Due to the growing number of food allergies and medical needs of students, OTE has a **non-edible** treat policy. Students may bring non-edible birthday treats (e.g., pencils, stickers, etc.) per arrangement with the classroom teacher. Remember that a birthday celebration should not take away from instructional time.

Birthday Invitations: We ask that students not distribute invitations to private birthday parties at school unless every class member receives an invitation.



Nut-Safer Guidelines

At OTE, we have a wide variety of food allergens and restrictions. To remain safe and to prevent exclusion, we don't accept food, including items from the Nut-Safe List, to serve in school or send home with students for birthday celebrations. This complies with our **non-edible birthday celebration**. Essentially, we must remember that sending food home is a risk for children as they transition between school and home, putting our families in an undesirable position when they cannot eat what is provided.

Blue Valley (BV) School's Nut Safer Guidelines for daily snacks will be implemented throughout the school year.

- Classroom snacks must be from the Nut Safer list.
- Nut Safer seating is available in the café during lunch.

We appreciate your support as we work to be more preventative with food safety measures to enhance student and staff safety.

The complete **Nut Safer Foods** and BV Guidelines can be found [here](#).

Kindergarten Tidbits

Please review the attached newsletter for information missed at Kindergarten Roundup and what to look forward to as we begin a new school year at Overland Trail Elementary.

Welcome to Kindergarten Newsletter

School Supply Lists

District Calendar (2024-2025)

Family Handbook



Erica McDonald, Principal

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