

Cougar Connect

May 23, 2025

A Note From Mrs. McDonald



A Note From Mrs. McDonald

Good afternoon,

As we close out another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued partnership, support, and enthusiasm. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments—and it would not have been possible without the collaboration between our dedicated staff, amazing students, and supportive families.

To our students: We are so proud of all you've accomplished! You've worked hard, shown kindness, and continued to grow in so many ways. Enjoy a well-earned summer full of fun, discovery, and rest.

To our families: Thank you for your unwavering support and for being essential partners in your children's education. Your involvement truly makes our school community special.

To our staff: Your commitment, care, and creativity make Overland Trail Elementary a wonderful place to learn and grow. I hope you find time this summer to relax and recharge.

Wishing everyone a safe, joyful, and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall, ready for another fantastic year together!

Overland Trail Elementary
Phone: (913) 239-7000
Email: ote-oteos@bluevalleyk12.org

Warmly,

Newsletter Table of Contents



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Recurring News:

- Save-the-Date
- Community Celebrations and Observances
- Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) News

Recent News

- No recent news at this time

Repeat News:

- Summer 2025 Vaccine Clinics
- Viewing Canvas Courses and Quarter Grades
- OTE Fifth Grade | Welcome to Strings 2025-26
- Summer Technology Support
- Register for the 2025-26 school year today
- Helpful Links (i.e., School Supply Lists, Family Handbook, etc.)

Save-the-Date



Save-the-Date

June

Thursday, June 12: School Office Closed for 2024-25

July

Monday, July 21: School Office Open for 2024-25

August

Friday, August 1-Wednesday, August 6: Staff Onboarding

Thursday, August 7-Monday, August 12: Staff Retreat | All Staff Professional Learning

Wednesday, August 6: Staff Grant Applications Open

Monday, August 11: Sneak a Peek

Wednesday, August 13: First Day of School | Grades 1-5

Thursday, August 14: First Day of School | Kindergarten

Community Celebrations and Observances



Community Celebrations and Observances - to promote awareness and appreciation of our Blue Valley families.

Some May Celebrations & Observances:

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month** - recognizes the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to American society, culture, and history.
- **Jewish American Heritage Month** - celebrates the achievements and contributions of Jewish Americans to American society, culture, and history.
- **Mental Health Awareness Month** - aims to raise awareness about mental health by fighting the stigma, providing support, and advocating for policies that support people affected by mental illness.
- **International Family Equality Day** - May 7 - celebrates the beauty and importance of family diversity.
- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** - May 21 - a day set aside by the United Nations to deepen understanding of the value of cultural diversity and to learn to live together in harmony.

OTE | PTO



PTO Events | May

Make a Difference at OTE—Join the PTO!

Looking for a way to get involved and make a meaningful impact at OTE? PTO volunteers play a vital role in organizing events, supporting students and families, and fostering a **connected, vibrant community**. Whether you want to **lead as a Co-Chair, join a specific committee, or sign up as a General Volunteer**, every contribution—big or small—helps our programs thrive and enriches



the school experience. No matter your availability or skill set, there's a place for you in the PTO!

Sign up today to be part of the team: www.otepto.org/volunteer

Summer 2025 Vaccine Clinics

All students attending school in 2025-2026

SUMMER Vaccination Clinics

All recommended childhood and school-required vaccines will be available.



July 25, 2025, 1-4 p.m.
August 1, 2025, 1-4 p.m.
Health Services Building
11875 S. Sunset Drive
Olathe, KS 66061

August 8, 2025, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Northeast Office Building
6000 Lamar Ave.
Mission, KS 66202



Bring insurance card if you have one.
No one is turned away for inability to pay. Questions? Call 913-826-1261 or send an email to jcdhe@jocogov.org.

JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Health & Environment

Viewing Canvas Courses and Quarter Grades

End of Quarter Information - Viewing Canvas Courses and Quarter Grades

At the end of each quarter, courses in Canvas will conclude and will no longer be visible on the Canvas app. However, a concluded course remains visible through the Canvas website by selecting ALL COURSES and then PAST ENROLLMENTS.

How do I view my child's report card?

- Log in on [ParentVue](#).
- Select the student's name
- In the left navigation bar, choose Report Card

Each new quarter, classroom teachers will publish the next quarter's Canvas course. As courses are published, students and families will again be able to see current courses on the Canvas app

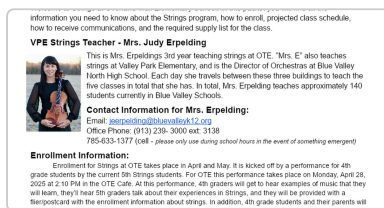
Important dates for families:

	Courses Conclude on Canvas	Grades Viewable on ParentVue (after 4pm)
Quarter 1	Friday, October 11	Tuesday, October 22
Quarter 2	Friday, December 20	Friday, January 10
Quarter 3	Thursday, March 13	Wednesday, April 2
Quarter 4	Thursday, May 22	Thursday, June 5

Please note: The dates are subject to change based upon calendar updates or technology needs.

and Canvas website. For Canvas parent resources, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/canvas.

OTE Fifth Grade | Welcome to Strings 2025-26



OTE Welcome to Strings 2025-26

OTE Strings 2025-26 Welcome to Strings at Overland Trail Elementary School! In this packet you will find all the information you need to know about the Strings program, how to enroll, projected class schedule, how to receive communications, and the required supply list for the class. ...

[docs.google.com](#)

Summer Technology Support

Here is the [summer technology support information](#) from BV Care. I.T. will also be putting this information on the district website the first week of June as one of the rotating banners.

Register for the 2025-26 school year today

[Elementary school registration](#) for the 2025-26 school year is now open for current students. Registration is required annually and is the time to update your child's information and pay required and some optional fees. Completing registration confirms that your child will attend school in August and helps the district appropriately staff classrooms. Beginning in 2025-26, all 6th and 9th graders will be required to provide proof of residency (a current purchase contract, lease or utility bill, within the attendance area for your address) as part of the transition to a new level.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important step. For more registration information, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration.

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN DATES 2025-2026

Kindergarten Online Registration Begins
February 18

Kindergarten Kick-Off Sessions
(Formerly Kindergarten Round-Up)
April 11

Kindergarten Orientation Sessions
August 13

First full day of school for Kindergarten
August 14



**Contact your neighborhood
school for more information.**



Helpful Links

[School Supply Lists](#)

[District Calendar \(2024-2025\)](#)

[District Calendar \(2025-2026\)](#)

[Overland Trail Elementary's Homepage](#)

[Family Handbook](#)

Erica McDonald, Principal



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Alicia Anderson, Assistant Principal

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Office Staff

- Robin Warren, Administration Assistant/Bookkeeper
- Yolonda Merritt, Administration Assistant/Registrar
- Debby Alexander, Attendance

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Erica McDonald

Erica is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters