

## High Point Elementary 2011-2012 Our Mission: "Together We Learn"

It is that wonderful time of the year again..... we can't wait....

We hope that summer was a wonderful season for you and your family. In a few short days High Point Elementary will open the doors to another school year. We are excited to see all of you! Our school theme this year is "One World, Many Stories" in honor of the wonderfully diverse learning community we have in High Point. Our theme and mission are aligned with 21st century learning. As a school community of students, teachers, staff, and parents we are called to be engaged learners in a global society. As a school community we learn from each other and collaboratively seek new knowledge based in strong relationships. We celebrate our diverse school community which values uniqueness, culture, respect, family, friends, etc. We enjoy learning and having loads of exciting new days.

The new High Point 2011-2012 school calendar, handbook, information, and needed school forms are on-line at [www.gahannaschools.org](http://www.gahannaschools.org) under High Point Elementary. A small version of the calendar will be sent home for reference when school opens.

Enclosed you will find a consolidated front and back **Yearly (Parent) Authorization Form (mandatory for enrollment)** which consists of all the

required district forms and information we need on your child. The form is also available on-line at [www.gahannaschools.org](http://www.gahannaschools.org) Please **note:** This 2-sided form must be read, initialed, and signed in several areas on **both sides**. The **High Point Handbook** is on-line on the district website and should be reviewed with your child. If you would like a paper copy, please stop by school. **Please return this form at the Back to School party or first day of school to your child's teacher.**

**We will have a few additional forms for you to review and to complete once school opens. Please watch for these. Please send all completed forms back to school by August 26th, the first week of school Thank-you for completing these in a timely manner.**

**Classroom assignment lists** will be posted on the school doors on the evening of Friday, August 19th after 6:00 p.m. You are invited and encouraged to bring your family and stop by for a quick viewing. Hours and hours of care and concern went into the design of homeroom lists. Many things were taken into consideration including teacher observations, compatibility of children, size of classrooms, learning styles, data, neighbors, friends, etc. On the first day children will come to school ready to see their

friends, make new friends, enjoy their teachers, and have a great school year.

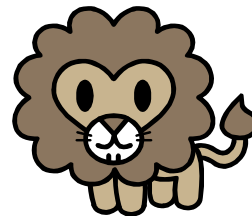
Children will be able to see their new classrooms and meet their wonderful new teachers on the afternoon of **August 23rd ;2:00-3:00 at our Annual Back to School Party**. Come for an enjoyable visit!! Students are encouraged to bring supplies and the completed enclosed **Yearly Authorization Form** to drop off at this time. Due to the time element this is not a time for conferences with our teachers. We will host other opportunities for you to speak with teachers.

**Supply lists** are posted on the school doors should you need to see what is needed at each grade level. School fees are \$35.00 and are due September 30th. Thank you!!!!

We are opening a **NEW pre-school** this year. It is a Franklin County unit. We wish our new pre-school families and their family a **HUGE, WAR, welcome!!!** They are working in Rm. 19 this year!!!

*Your friendship, support and involvement is appreciated!*

Questions?? Give us a call. We aim to please.



**We begin each day at 8:00 a.m. sharp!! We dismiss at 2:25 p.m.**

**The starting time of school is 8:00 am sharp. We dismiss at 2:25.** Children who walk to school or who are driven to school should not arrive until 7:50 am, when our school doors open. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in this area. We allow children to return to rooms until 3:00 for forgotten

items or materials.

Please remember good attendance and prompt arrival is important for everyone. We maintain strict adherence to prompt, regular attendance as it builds good responsibility in our children. As you know, children thrive on routines and schedules. We work

hard to establish this! We begin each morning ready to go at 8:00!! Please be sure your child is ready to go!! Ready to learn!!

**\*\*\*\*Please remember to call the school office line at 478-5545, when your child is ill. If your child misses a day of school, please send in a note (district policy required) explaining the absence. A doctor excuse is necessary after 10 days of absence.**

### High Point Elementary

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#### Special points of interest:

\*Please help us to congratulate Mrs. Winner on the birth of her beautiful new daughter in June.

\*Check out our updated school calendar on-line on the Gahanna school website. High Point newsletters are also posted.

\*School lunches will cost \$2.50. Milk is \$ .45

\*School fees are \$35.00 and are due by Sept. 30

\*Watch the local newspaper for bus route times

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# PTA 2011-2012 Updates

Your High Point PTA has been actively working over the summer. There are several projects currently "in the works." This year, like last year, we will again sponsor special speakers & materials for your child's classrooms, assemblies, treats for parties, student directory, provide for literacy materials, technology, etc. We support our children by doing many extras!!

We will continue to have room parents who will sponsor different celebrations and provide leadership throughout the school year. Celebrations are aimed at building community and family spirit in classrooms for our children. Please plan to sign up to be a room parent for

your child's classroom. It is a great way to get involved. If you have any ideas or questions, please let us know.

PTA will continue to offer **Market Day**. **Market Day** is a company which sells quality food wholesale. The meals are awesome for the working family. More details coming on this.

Your High Point PTA leadership team members include: Mrs. Acklin, our President; Mrs. Callander the Vice-President; Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. McHugh Co-Treasurers; and ; Mrs. Blasi, our Secretary. Please feel free to join us. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:00. pm in the school library. Watch for the calendar which will come home

with your children and is posted on -line!! We will also have detailed monthly newsletters, posted on-line or available on paper. Please join us!! We always need help. More details forthcoming!!

During the first week of school you will receive a PTA packet /e-mail which will have information and opportunities for you to get involved in this year!! Watch for the golden-rod packet!!! We are excited to have your support!!! We are anxious to have you join us!



Dates of Importance.....Mark your calendar NOW!! :)  
All calendar dates for High Point are on-line at [www.gahannaschools.org](http://www.gahannaschools.org)

- **School Supply Pick-Up** in cafeteria- August 18th 9:00-11:00 and 3:00-7:00 p.m. and Friday, August 19th- 9:00-1:00.
- **August 19th**-Class lists posted after 6:00 p.m.
- **August 22nd**-Kindergarten Meet the Teacher Night August 22nd at 6:30 pm. in all Kindergarten classrooms
- **August 22nd - Gr. 1 & 2 "Meet the Teacher Night"** for parents in

primary classrooms. (No cafeteria session) Session to begin at 7:00pm. in Gr. 1 classrooms and 7:30 pm for Gr. 2 folks. Parking may be tight, please car pool, if possible.

- **August 23rd Back-to-School Party** in all classrooms at 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- **August 24th-School Opens**
- **August 24-August 26—**

Staggered Kindergarten sessions each day. Info sent in June

- **August 29th—Gr. 3 "Meet the Teacher Night"** at 6:30 in classrooms (No cafeteria session)
- **August 29th- Gr. 4 "Meet the Teacher Night"** Meet in classrooms at 7:00 p.m. (No cafeteria session)
- **August 29th- Gr. 5 "Meet the Teacher Night"** in the classrooms at 7:30 p.m. (No cafeteria session)
- **September 5th -Labor Day- No School ...the long last weekend of summer!!**

## Our Lunch Program Updates

Wellness is what we are all about in our High Point Elementary FOOD SERVICE Department. Under the direction of Mrs. Stewart, our FOOD SERVICE program for lunch provides scrumptious daily lunch menus for our children which are healthy and nutritious. You will receive an updated new menu with revisions from input gathered last year. The menu was designed by a nutritionist and has a predictable time-table. It will be a year-long menu and is on-line. The menu is nut free!!! We will continue use of the **MEAL PAY PLUS for lunch**. Any amount of money can be deposited into your child's account by (1) sending a check or cash to school w/your child (2) accessing the account online at [www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com) Returning students will use their same student ID



from last year. New students will be given ID's. Be sure to check your child's account status regularly. They must have money in their account to purchase lunch or snacks. Check regularly accounts! **Always maintain a balance in order for your child to eat the scheduled lunch. A cheese sandwich is provided if there is no balance. Watch for more information on MEAL PAY PLUS our new on-line cafeteria payment program!!**

FYI....On special days there are delicious yogurt shakes offered that are out of this world!!! Children are also offered the option of healthy sack lunches or the regular menu of choice. There is an extensive selection of offerings on the snack line which include fruit, granola bars, veggies, ice cream selections, etc. Salad and fruit are offered to our children on selected days and are on the regular menu quite frequently.

During the year there will be several fami-

ly lunches offered for families to come in and share a lunchtime with us!! Watch for those dates on our school calendar. You are welcome to eat with your child at lunch, please give us a **call in advance** so we can plan for you. Of course, we prefer you purchase from our program. Lunch prices this year will be \$2.50 and milk will be \$.45. It is a great place to dine!

*FREE AND REDUCED FORMS needed?? Please call the school office or they are available on line at Food Service at [www.gahannaschools.org](http://www.gahannaschools.org)*

### Important to please note:

Over the past years we have observed an increase in peanut, nut, milk and fish allergies. In order to keep everyone safe from exposure, there will be nut/peanut free classrooms AND nut/peanut free tables in the cafeteria. We will also NOT be serving peanut butter or peanut products from our cafeteria service or at any school events due to the number of allergies we have at High Point. Children may bring nuts/peanut butter from home but will not be permitted to sit at nut free cafeteria tables. Our students do a great job!

## EXCITING New changes at High Point Elementary for this year!!!

We have made changes in the number of sections we have at many grade levels. This year we will have 4 classrooms/sections in Gr. 1, 2, and Gr. 3 which lowers our class size significantly to 20-22 children. The levy passage really supported this change. Gr. 4-5 will have 3 sections with 24-25 children in classrooms. Kindergarten will have 2 full days and one afternoon session.

Since June several wonderful folks have joined our High Point Elementary faculty!!! A sincere welcome is extended to the following the fabulous new faculty members:

**-Mr. Doug Parker is our new Art teacher.** He comes to us from Middle School South. He has loads of energy and enthusiasm for children and the arts!!

**-Mrs. Cook is our new Kindergarten teacher** who will be teaching an **afternoon** session. Mrs. Cook has been an elementary and pre-school teacher. She

joins Miss Eiler and Mrs. Brown in our fabulous Kindergarten.

**-Miss Airel** who has recently taught in the Cleveland area is our new Gr. 1 teacher. She joins Mrs. Winner, Ms. Bishop, and Mrs. Divida in the dynamic Gr. 1 arena.

**-Mrs. Smith has joined Gr. 2** with Miss Alexander, Mrs. Hoover and new teacher Mrs. McGrath. Mrs. Smith is an experienced veteran teacher and was our Kinder teacher last year.

**-Mrs. McGrath also joins our Gr. 2** team. She is an experienced teacher and most recently substituted in Gr. 2 last year for Mrs. Wilson who is on a year long leave of absence to care for her new daughter!!

**-Mrs. Gordon is teaching our Gr. 3** children this year. She has 17 years of experience teaching. She comes to us from Royal Manor.

**-Mrs. Donaldson and Mrs. Disbro** will be sharing a Gr. 3 classroom. This dynamic duo will work

in collaboration with the other Gr. 3 teachers. Mrs. Disbro will teach Math and Science, Social Studies and Mrs. Donaldson will teach reading and writing. Mrs. Donaldson will continue to be our librarian and Mrs. Disbro will continue to serve as our Instructional Coach. Children will visit the library at bi-weekly times. More info to come!!

**-Miss Wingert**, our versatile teacher has moved to **Gr. 4** this year. She joins the strong team of Mrs. Dolder and Mrs. Linabary.

**-George Moore** is joining our custodian ranks fulltime. He will work the night shift in caring for our building. Mr. Moore comes to us from Blacklick Elementary. Mr. Sammons has moved on to the high school this year. We wish him loads of luck.

**-Miss Amanda Linn will be teaching Chinese in our school, primarily to our Gr. 2 children!! Very exciting.**

## Supplies for the School Year and Homework

There are **supply lists** prepared for each grade level. If you did not receive a list in June and missed our wonderful on-line School Supply Sale, please check out the lists on-line or stop by the school where we have them posted.

Please remember that we expect children to be prepared for school each day. Supplies may need to be replenished throughout the school year. Thank you, in advance, for your help and support. We

promise to care for our supplies. :-)

**Homework** at High Point is an "extension" of what we are doing in classroom instruction. Sometimes we want children to practice or complete a project at home. This is homework. Parents are asked to merely facilitate that homework is completed. Children should be able to complete homework independently, without big time help from adults. If they cannot, please

let your child's teacher know.

Be sure to take a peek at homework to see what children are learning!! It is exciting. Each day they learn something new!!!

We love showing off!! Children should be reading at home too!!

**Pack school bags and lunches the evening before school. The morning goes a whole lot smoother.**

## Lines of Communication Build Strong Partnerships

Communication between home and school must be on-going and two-way. Educators and families **MUST** work together on behalf of children.

This is a **BIG** school goal. Please keep in touch with your child's teacher. *Please note:* It may be after school when you are contacted.

Here are a number of ways for us to communicate. These include:

- We can always talk by **phone**. Please call the school office and leave a message and we will call you back. Leave a current phone number please.

- **The school office will be e-mailing weekly updates. Please provide updated e-mail for us. :-) ALL YEAR!!**

- Send a **note** with your child. Often we too will send notes home, so please watch for these.

- Each Thursday a **special "Thursday folder"** will come home to each family. **Watch for these.** We include menus, updates, newsletters, reminders, alerts, etc. We send these home



**Keep in touch with us!!**

EACH week so watch for them!!

- Newsletters are posted on-line on our website.
- All teachers and staff have **e-mail**. Please feel free to contact us through e-mail. We have portals on the website also.
- Your input from last spring suggested that teachers update websites more regularly and we will be attempting to get this going. Also, you liked e-mail and we will continue this communication tool.

We are a *great school community* because of the hard work of so many people. High Point is a quality school and has a positive reputation in the area!

We have wonderful teachers and staff members who put in very long hours to ensure the success of each child. Everyone is responsible for ensuring the school environment is safe and clean, focused on learning, and our food is nutritious.

We have great family members who ensure that children come to school ready to learn, ready to listen, ready to work with others in a kind, cooperative manner. We have an awesome PTA. Families do a great job in our school community!!

Most of all we have the *BEST children* in all the world!! We are so proud of their involvement and learning. They are a joy to all of us!!! We will have a great year!!! We are ready to go!!

## Welcome to High Point and the 2011-2012 School Year

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### New initiatives for the school year include the following:

- New Franklin County Pre-School ESC coming
  - All Gr. 2 children will have Mandarin Chinese this year thanks to a grant our district has acquired. Miss Amanda Linn will be teaming with our Gr. 2 teachers in teaching the language and culture of China. More details to follow. Cool stuff!!
  - Chinese Mandarin classes/ club after and during school are due to a district Grant. Wonderful teacher coming our way!! More to come.
  - Interactive and Smart Board technology will be used in nearly all classrooms, music, and the library, thanks to PTA and the school district we have projectors and Smart Boards. Soon phones in all the classrooms.
  - Family Nights are planned
  - Due to the generosity of PTA and our parent community we have new literature books to use.
  - New beautiful art tiles were be made by Gr. 5 under teacher Mrs. Armstrong's leadership last year . Check them out!! Too cool!!
  - Student art work will be on display throughout the school
  - Assemblies!!! Author visits!! Story tellers
  - **More recycling efforts!!**
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