



AUBURN ATTRACTIONS

APRIL 2018 EDITION

BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

AUBURN ELEMENTARY MISSION

The Auburn Elementary Staff is committed the enhancement of leadership skills, fostering individual creativity and the pursuit of academic excellence. Through diverse learning opportunities each student's unique abilities will be developed to achieve their potential; making a positive contribution to our global society.

SCHOOL DAY

School Office Opens	8:00a.m
Student Arrival	8:15a.m
Transition to Class-	8:35a.m
School Begins	8:45a.m
Student Dismissal	3:34p.m
School Office Closes	4:00p.m

The spirit of volunteering is alive and well at Auburn Elementary; accumulating well over 2,000 yearly hours of service to our staff, students and school community. Volunteering comes in many forms in a school: tutoring, event organization, fundraising, attending Parent-Teacher Organization meetings, classroom parties, athletics coaching, media center assistants, clipping box tops, popping popcorn, Fun Fair, 5K Color Run and coordinating the Variety Show

just to name a few...it is a tremendous gift of time that is not taken for granted by our school staff.



Auburn Elementary Volunteer Coordinator (pictured), Ashley Nowak. Co-Coordinator, Amanda Vantol. PTO Secretary, Liz Garchow. PTO Treasurer, Nicole Kingsbury.

Without our volunteers our students would lose many opportunities that volunteers support. Although

we try to appreciate our volunteers as often as possible, a heart filled thank is worth its weight in gold in a school. April is formally volunteer appreciation month and we are all very blessed to celebrate this month with everyone who gives a little or a lot of time and talent to make Auburn Elementary a very special school.

THANK YOU!

APRIL FOOLS AMONG US?

April fools day began in the 1500's when the Gregorian Calendar took over from the Julian. Those who forgot the change and attempted to celebrate New Year's, (previously celebrated on the 1st of April), on the wrong date were teased as "April fools." Since that time it has

become tradition on the first of April to pull jokes, of a harmless variety, on those near and dear to us. We plot and we scheme and often the yuks are funnier in our imaginations than how they play out in reality. But that doesn't stop us from sending the

little kid in us out on a rampage. Even the most staid among us have been known to indulge in a practical joke or two, so beware of trusting anyone on April Fools day.



MISCELLANEOUS

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

When we get to this point in the school year student absences from school can trigger intervention steps required by our school district. Our school attendance procedures can be found on our school website and in the BCPS Student Code of Conduct. Students will be marked 1/2 day absent if they arrive more than 30 minutes late in the morning or for an early pick-up of more than 30 minutes prior to dismissal (3:34p.m.). Use a pink communication note, contact our office by phone or check into the school office if you need to pick-up your child early.

Our school is evaluated yearly by the State of Michigan under the requirements No Child Left Behind Act. Student attendance is a part of that evaluation process. Students who do not attend school regularly are missing instruction and learning experiences which can impact a student's academic performance.

If your child's absence is the result of an extenuating circumstance like a doctor's appointment please provide a medical slip. Absences that are extenuating circumstances are coded and reviewed differently when as we monitor and apply attendance procedures.

For more information about your child's attendance please contact Ethel Miller in our office at (989) 662-4921, extension #2100 or millere@bcschools.net.

BCPS CALENDAR

4/27: No School
 4/27: 3rd Trimester Mid-Term

STAY CONNECTED

www.bcpsauburn.com
 or "like" us on Facebook!



A special thank you to all Auburn families and community members who attended Zumba classes at our school this winter. Oh, what fun we had! We were able to earn \$600.00 to purchase THREE Chromebooks for our Kindergarten classrooms! Zumba classes will resume again next year. Looking forward to it! Mrs. Z.



STATE ASSESSMENTS BEGIN

Elementary students in 3rd through 5th grade students will begin taking the on-line State of Michigan, Department of Education, assessment called M-STEP (Michigan—Student Test of Educational Progress) in April and May. Depending on the grade level, the M-STEP will assess student proficiency on English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Your child's classroom teacher will be sending information to you prior to each grade level's testing window related to specific testing dates and times. Please make every effort to avoid

student absences for appointments during these assessment windows as every student is required to take the test. As a parent you might be wondering how you can help your child prepare for this new assessment tool. Because of the technology based format of the M-STEP exposing your child to keyboarding skills will be critical. Our Media Specialist, Mrs. Simon, works with students on such skills during their media class time and there can never be too much keyboarding practice time. Our students also have access to an on-line program called Front

Row. This program mirrors the format of the math assessment and provide tutorials related to specific math content standards. Spending time with your child reading non-fiction materials like magazine articles, discussing the authors purpose for the article and encouraging your child to reflect on or take a position (What do you think and why?) on the information within the article helps build deeper understanding and comprehension skills. If you have specific questions about the M-STEP please contact your child's home-room teacher for more information.



ACADEMIC RETENTION: Is it right for your child?



It's now the end of the 2nd marking period; just one marking period away from the end of the school year. You have met and talked with your child's classroom teacher regularly throughout the school year and are learning that your child is not performing, as necessary, to be prepared for the content of the next grade level. As with schools, there is intense pressure for children to achieve academically at their grade level or higher. Should you be considering a grade level retention to help your struggling child?

Retention refers to the practice of keeping a child in the same grade for more than one year as a result of poor academic performance in school. In most cases, parents and educators have agreed to retain students because they have not mastered skills needed to be successful at the next grade level. They believe that receiving the same curriculum content for another year will provide additional time for the child to learn the skills and mature physically and intellectually.

Research on the effectiveness of retention has shown mixed results. In some cases, retention alone is not sufficient enough to resolve student's learning problems and in

many cases more educational support is needed such as:

- Additional instruction (tutoring) beyond the school day in areas of need.
- Referral to the school's Child Study Team to consider all options available and implementation of a focused plan to assist the child.
- Specific interventions in school focusing on areas of need.

Some additional factors when considering whether or not to retain a child, in addition to poor academic performance, would be when:

- A child has already been retained in a previous grade.
- A child has missed a lot of instruction due to absences.
- Instruction has been inconsistent due to frequent family relocations and attendance at more than one school.
- The child has a late birthday, which makes him/her a year younger than most other students at her grade level.
- The child has experienced serious illness or emotional trauma that has impacted the ability to focus on school curriculum.
- The child is currently receiving Special Education Services.

Some negatives associated with grade retention include:

- The student's self-esteem may be affected as their friends move up a grade level without them.
- Students who are physically more mature may feel self-conscious around children who are smaller and appear younger.

Things to consider to help you make the right choice for your child:

- Many educators agree that if a child is considered for retention it is less likely to affect a student's self-esteem when done early on (before 2nd grade).
- Ensure that any problems with attendance at school is addressed.
- Address health problems that may affect a child's ability to focus on learning.
- Frequent moves are unavoidable. Work with each school to learn how to help your child catch up at home.
- Get to know the curriculum and content expectations of each grade level by talking with school staff. They can help you realistically evaluate your child's needs, the support available, and the likelihood of success should your child be retained or promoted.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

NEXT PTO MEETING

Monday, May 7, 2018
6:30p.m. / Media Center

POPCORN DAYS

Friday, 4/13
Thursday, 4/26
\$.50 cents per bag

2018 COLOR-RUN

Saturday, 4/14
Registration: 9:30a
5K Race: 10:30a
Auburn City Park



VOLUNTEER REMINDER

Just a reminder to our many parent and community volunteers...please sign in. You are a welcome part of our school and we do appreciate you. For liability and volunteer hour tracking purposes it is necessary that all volunteers visit the main office and sign-in prior to any volunteer work within the school.

WARMER WEATHER WEAR



Hopefully the weather agrees with the calendar as we head into spring. At this time of the year what to wear to school can vary from day to day for students and it's important to lay out some warmer weather wear guidelines. We encourage students to discuss weather predictions for each school day with their parents. The cooler

temperatures in the a.m. can turn even cooler but hopefully warmer temperatures by lunch time. At school students can go outside with shorts (finger tip length) and without a jacket when the temperature reaches 55 degrees or warmer. If parents have tougher standards we will defer to a parents expectations for their child(ren). Flip flops can be worn to

school however when children wear flip flops they cannot play on play structures where wood chips are present for safety purposes. We encourage students to wear a shoe that covers their feet.

After all of our cold no-school and indoor recess weather we all will appreciate the warmer weather ahead!