



Here you will find information regarding the 24-25 school year, including our back-to-school events, school start/end times, arrival/dismissal procedures, links to important school/district information, and more! We hope you find this helpful as you begin to navigate this exciting new year!

General Cornell Elementary School Information

Cornell Kick Start

Families are invited to our **Cornell Kick Start** on **Wednesday, August 14th** from **5:30-6:30pm**. Students and parents may tour the school, meet the front office staff, engage with PTO members, and ask questions. Representatives from the OPS Transportation Department, OPS Health Team, and OPS Food Services will be onsite during Cornell's Kick Start event, should there be questions or concerns to address! This is different from our Open House event, as classrooms will not be open and teachers are not required to attend.

Cornell Open House

Families are invited to our **Cornell Open House** on **Monday, August 19th** from **5:30-6:30pm**. We strongly encourage families to walk to Kick Start if they live nearby, as parking may be challenging! Be a good neighbor—please refrain from parking along Cornell Road and/or blocking driveways in the neighborhood!

Suggested Attendance: 5:30-6:00pm: students whose last name begins with A-M
6:00-6:30pm: students whose last name begins with N-Z

This will be an opportunity for parents and students to meet the teacher and see the classroom prior to the first day. Hopefully, this will put some of those first-day jitters to rest! Please note that this event is not intended to be an opportunity to hold a conference with the teacher. Please arrange another time to talk with your child's teacher if there is something specific that needs to be shared.

Suggested Supplies: [Classroom Supply Lists](#)

While we have an abundance of resources available in our classrooms, we know that students often enjoy picking out their own supplies to bring to school. Below is a list of *suggested* supplies for each grade level. Please note that if you are unable to contribute the listed items for your child, Okemos Public Schools & Cornell Elementary Staff will ensure that your child has the materials and resources necessary to be successful at school! Any supplies you are contributing can be dropped off in classrooms during the Open House or sent to school with your child!

All students will be provided a weekly vinyl Friday Folder which will include any academic practice exercises and important information from the week. Please take care to look at the information in these folders and send them back to school with your child each week!

Transportation Information: [Bus Schedules](#)

As the school year approaches, please be advised of important transportation information. Annually, buses are re-routed to address changes in ridership and provide efficiencies. Therefore, bus routes and bus numbers

may not be the same as last year, and bus stop locations and times may have changed. Updated bus schedules for the 24-25 school year should be posted in August.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to get students to and from the designated bus stop safely and to monitor their child(ren) while at the bus stop. Parents/guardians of kindergarten students must be at the bus stop to receive their child at drop-off time.

During the first few weeks of school and during inclement weather, buses tend to run late. If a bus is minimally ten minutes late, you may call 706-5050 with questions.

Start of School

The first day of school is **Wednesday, August 21st**. This is a **HALF-DAY**. School starts at 8:50am and dismissal is scheduled for 12:00pm.

Mark your calendars- **NO SCHOOL** on **Friday, August 30th & Monday, September 2nd** in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

2024-2025 Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten: Katie Casson, Vanessa Nahat, Amy Petersburg

1st Grade: Ashleigh Fesko, Erin Gutierrez, Lisa Hall, Christina Schuesler

2nd Grade: Ashley Andersen, Molly Hughey, Megan Malkus, Alana Pignataro

3rd Grade: Gracie DeLadurantaye, Kendra Hixson, Breanne Dykeman, Andrea Dickinson (Tousignant)

4th Grade: Jamie Coy, Jen Harnick, Lindsey Price, Tena Sinila

Teacher assignments will be sent via email to parents/guardians on August 12! This is now a centralized process using the primary email address parents/guardians have on file in PowerSchool.

Staffing Updates

Mrs. Hughey will be on leave until mid-October. We are excited to have Mrs. Godette as her long-term substitute teacher. Mrs. Godette has been a frequent and highly requested substitute for Cornell Elementary over the past few years and is loved & respected by all!

Following her long-term position with Mrs. Hughey, Mrs. Summer Godette will join the staff as our Cornell Building Substitute! She will be in the building daily to cover classrooms as needed due to teacher absences or meetings.

School Hours

Full Days 8:50am-3:45pm

Half-Days 8:50am-12:00pm

Students should be in the classroom at 8:50am each day! ALL students arriving after the 8:50am bell will be marked tardy!

Daily Schedule

8:30-8:45am Breakfast served daily in the Cafeteria (optional-beginning on Aug. 24th)

8:35am Arrival begins-Students may enter the school

8:45am First bell rings and students may enter their classrooms

8:50am Final bell - School Begins!

3:45pm Dismissal begins - Students exit to designated areas

Please note important dates on the [OPS District Calendar](#)!

Procedures for Arrival

Only students who are participating in the breakfast program & members of the 4th Grade Safety Patrol should arrive at 8:30am and ring the buzzer at Door 1.

All other students who arrive at 8:35am wait outside until the staff opens the doors.

- Walkers will line up on the blacktop at the back of the school building.
- Car Riders will line up in front of the school.
- Bus Riders will line up by the gym door (3).

These areas will continue to be designated as “drop, hug & go” zones! Staff members will assist until students have learned the AM procedures for entering the school building. Students and parents are not permitted to visit classrooms or other areas prior to the first bell, unless an appointment has been prearranged with the teacher. This is an important time for staff to prepare for the day of instruction.

Procedures for Dismissal

Only students who are participating in the 4th Grade Safety Patrol should leave class prior to the 3:45pm bell. Safeties should be on their assigned post at 3:40pm.

All other students will be dismissed at 3:45pm to the following supervised areas:

- Walkers are dismissed to the blacktop in the back of the school building.
- Car Riders will line up in front of the school by grade level.
- Bus Riders will line up in the gym and exit using Door 3.

Staff members will supervise students in these designated locations. Students and parents are not permitted to visit classrooms or other areas after the final bell, unless an appointment has been prearranged with the teacher.

Curriculum Nights

Curriculum Night will continue to be an asynchronous event, accessible from the comfort of your home! Teachers will share information about grade-level curriculum, and classroom procedures, as well as links to connect to grade-level resources, videos, and other information through their classroom newsletters. Look for this information to be shared in mid-September!

Lunch Account Information

Our breakfast programs will begin on the first day of school, August 21st and our lunch program will begin on the first full day of school, August 22nd.

Your child may bring a lunch from home or choose a hot lunch at school. With the approval of the 23-24 Michigan School Aid budget, all students may receive school breakfast and/or lunch at no cost, regardless of income. **This does not include “a la carte” items, “extras,” or “doubles,”** which will be charged to student accounts. Monthly menus can be found on the OPS Food Services website or by downloading the Nutrislice App. Information on how to pay for your child’s lunches online is available below. If you want to deposit money into the account online, you will need to get your child’s school ID# by sending an email with your child’s name to nisreen.abulibdeh@okemosk12.net or jennifer.darjes@okemosk12.net. We will email your child’s ID# to you.

Monthly OPS Food Service [Lunch Menus](#)

Information about making an online [Meal Magic Payment](#)!

Lunch Supervisors Needed

We need Lunch Supervisors for our lunch program! Our supervisors, who are typically parents at our school, can work a couple of days or all five days a week. The hours are approximately 11:15am-1:35pm. If you would like more information, please contact Nisreen Abulibdeh at nisreen.abulibdeh@okemosk12.net.

Student Info & Emergency Contacts For Returning Families - Important!

We are using an online system for parents to verify/update student information and emergency contact information. Each returning family will receive an email with a link that allows you to access and update your information. If you do not receive that email, please contact the main office with any changes that need to be made to your child's registration information, jennifer.darjes@okemosk12.net.