



The Maritime Academy of Toledo

Parent Newsletter
December 5th, 2024

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Maritime Academy Families,

As we enter the final month of the year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the hard work and dedication our students and staff have shown throughout the fall semester. This month, we're focusing on the importance of setting goals for the new year, fostering positive habits, and supporting one another during the winter months.

In this edition, we also share updates on upcoming events, important school news, and tips for maintaining balance between academics, health, and well-being during the busy holiday season. We hope this newsletter inspires our community to finish the semester strong and to look ahead to the exciting opportunities the new year will bring.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to The Maritime Academy of Toledo. Let's make the most of the closing weeks of 2024!

Sincerely,
Aaron Lusk
Superintendent
The Maritime Academy of Toledo

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- **No Students/ Teacher Training – December 6th, 2024 and December 17th, 2024**
This will be training to help teachers grow and become more knowledgeable in their teaching practices.
- **Christmas Break- December 20th-January 6th**
- **STAR Benchmark Assessments- January 13-17, 2024**
- The **STAR Benchmark Assessments** are computer-adaptive tests designed by Renaissance Learning to assess student achievement in reading, math, and other subjects. They are used for **screening, monitoring progress, and measuring growth** across the school year. STAR assessments are widely used from kindergarten through 12th grade and are known for their efficiency, with most tests completed within 20–30 minutes.

Yondr Pouches and Cell Phones

Summary: Implementation of Yondr Pouches at The Maritime Academy of Toledo

Starting in the second semester, The Maritime Academy of Toledo will introduce Yondr pouches as a strategy to enhance focus and minimize distractions caused by cell phones during the school day. These secure pouches allow students to keep their phones with them while ensuring they remain inaccessible during instructional time.

Upon arrival each morning, students will place their phones into the Yondr pouches, which are then locked using a special magnetic device. Students retain the pouch and phone but cannot access the device until the end of the school day when the pouches are unlocked. This process aims to promote a more engaging and distraction-free learning environment.

The decision to adopt Yondr pouches stems from a growing need to address the impact of cell phones on classroom behavior, academic performance, and social interactions. Feedback from similar implementations in other schools suggests improvements in student attentiveness, participation, and overall school climate.

The school is committed to ensuring a smooth transition to this system, with clear guidelines for students and families. Details on how the program will be managed, along with opportunities to ask questions, will be shared during upcoming parent meetings and through school communications.

The Maritime Academy of Toledo appreciates the support of students, parents, and staff in making this initiative a success!

School Uniforms (Repeated from 11/21 newsletter)

Wearing school uniforms at The Maritime Academy of Toledo plays an important role in fostering a focused and inclusive learning environment. Uniforms help students represent the Academy proudly and create a sense of unity and equality, reducing distractions related to fashion or socioeconomic differences. This consistency allows students to concentrate more on their studies and promotes a professional atmosphere within the school. Additionally, uniforms support school safety by making it easier to identify students and visitors on campus, contributing to a more secure and cohesive environment where everyone is recognized as part of the Academy community.

In addition, students often arrive to school out of uniform. If we sent students home, each time, we would never improve our State Report Card and some students want to be home instead of school. I often hear valid questions about some students being out of uniform and my answer is always the same: We treat everyone as an individual and provide support or guidance based upon their needs. For example, we have a significant population of students that are considered



homeless and just getting to school presents significant barriers and challenges. Please help us maintain the uniforms by making sure your child wears the appropriate clothing.

No matter what your child/teen says: We expect students to wear uniforms daily.

Attendance Matters

Why Attendance is Crucial (Repeat from November)

Excessive absences in student attendance can have significant negative impacts on academic performance and overall development. In Ohio, students with high rates of absenteeism often struggle to keep up with their peers, leading to gaps in learning and diminished engagement in the classroom. Research shows that consistent attendance is closely linked to improved academic outcomes, social skills, and future success. Schools and families must work together to address the barriers that contribute to absenteeism, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to thrive and succeed in their educational journey.

School Day: Classes start at 8:00 AM, and students should arrive no later than 7:50 AM to get settled in their classrooms.

- **Absences:** If your child must miss school, please contact the helm by 8:30 AM on the day of the absence. Absences must be excused with a note or some type of written documentation.
- **Tardies:** Arriving late disrupts the start of the day for both your child/teen and their classmates. Please ensure your child/teen arrives on time.

Let's work together to ensure your child attends school regularly and on time!

Student Spotlight

Maritime Leaders of the Month of November!

Each month, we will recognize students who exemplify leadership, academic excellence, and positive behavior. Congratulations. October will be announced in the October 24th newsletter.

- **Middle School Leader of the Month:**
 - **High School Leader of the Month:**
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Important Reminders

1. **Attendance Matters:** Please ensure your child attends school regularly. Consistent attendance is crucial for academic success and helps foster a sense of community.
2. **Respectful Communication:** Maintain open and respectful communication with teachers and staff. Positive interactions create a supportive environment for everyone.
3. **Classroom Behavior:** Encourage your child to demonstrate respect and responsibility in the classroom. Good behavior enhances the learning experience for all students.
4. **Stay Informed:** Regularly check our website and newsletters for updates on school events, important dates, and resources available to support your child's education.
5. **Engagement Opportunities:** Get involved! Attend school events, volunteer, and participate in parent-teacher meetings. Your involvement makes a difference in our school community. I would love to have parents come in and help guide students with correct behavior, appropriate language, and a love for school.

Parent Resources and Tips

How to Prevent Bullying

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can:

- Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
- Keep the lines of communication open. Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
- Encourage kids to do what they love. Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.
- Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.

Help Kids Understand Bullying

Kids who know what bullying is can better identify it. They can talk about bullying if it happens to them or others. Kids need to know ways to safely stand up to bullying and how to get help.

- Encourage kids to speak to a trusted adult if they are bullied or see others being bullied. The adult can give comfort, support, and advice, even if they can't solve the problem directly. Encourage the child to report bullying if it happens.
- Talk about how to stand up to kids who bully. Give tips, like using humor and saying "stop" directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions don't work, like walking away
- Talk about strategies for staying safe, such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.

- Urge them to help kids who are bullied by showing kindness or getting help.
- Watch the short webisodes and discuss them - PDF with kids.

Keep the Lines of Communication Open

Research tells us that children really do look to parents and caregivers for advice and help on tough decisions. Sometimes spending 15 minutes a day talking can reassure kids that they can talk to their parents if they have a problem. Start conversations about daily life and feelings with questions like these:

- What was one good thing that happened today? Any bad things?
- What is lunch time like at your school? Who do you sit with? What do you talk about?
- What is it like to ride the school bus?
- What are you good at? What would you like best about yourself?

Talking about bullying directly is an important step in understanding how the issue might be affecting kids. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, but it is important to encourage kids to answer them honestly. Assure kids that they are not alone in addressing any problems that arise. Start conversations about bullying with questions like these:

- What does “bullying” mean to you?
- Describe what kids who bully are like. Why do you think people bully?
- Who are the adults you trust most when it comes to things like bullying?
- Have you ever felt scared to go to school because you were afraid of bullying? What ways have you tried to change it?
- What do you think parents can do to help stop bullying?
- Have you or your friends left other kids out on purpose? Do you think that was bullying? Why or why not?
- What do you usually do when you see bullying going on?
- Do you ever see kids at your school being bullied by other kids? How does it make you feel?
- Have you ever tried to help someone who is being bullied? What happened? What would you do if it happens again?

Get more ideas for talking with children - PDF about life and about bullying. If concerns come up, be sure to respond.

There are simple ways that parents and caregivers can keep up-to-date with kids’ lives.

- Read class newsletters and school flyers. Talk about them at home.



- Check the school website
- Go to school events
- Greet the bus driver
- Meet teachers and counselors at “Back to School” night or reach out by email
- Share phone numbers with other kids’ parents

Teachers and school staff also have a role to play.

Encourage Kids to Do What They Love

Help kids take part in activities, interests, and hobbies they like. Kids can volunteer, play sports, sing in a chorus, or join a youth group or school club. These activities give kids a chance to have fun and meet others with the same interests. They can build confidence and friendships that help protect kids from bullying.

Model How to Treat Others with Kindness and Respect

Kids learn from adults’ actions. By treating others with kindness and respect, adults show the kids in their lives that there is no place for bullying. Even if it seems like they are not paying attention, kids are watching how adults manage stress and conflict, as well as how they treat their friends, colleagues, and families.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us:

- **Helm:** 419-244-9999
- **Email:** secretary@maritimeacademy.us
- **Website:** www.maritimeacademy.us

Thank you for being a vital part of The Maritime Academy of Toledo community. Let’s make this year a great one!

Sincerely,
Aaron Lusk
Superintendent