Defiance Elementary School News

400 Carter Road
Defiance, OH 43512
419-785-2260

Principal K – 2: Deanne Held
Principal 3 – 5: Teresa Pfeiffer

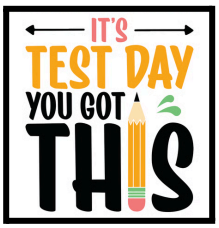
OCTOBER 2026



October 1	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 pm
October 2	NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:30 am-1:00 pm
October 5	Firefighters read to 1st Graders
October 7	PTO's "Day of Awesomeness" (Fundraiser Reward Party) Firefighters read to 2nd Graders
October 8	First Grade to Leaders Farm, Firefighters read to 3rd Graders
October 13	Firefighters Read to 4th Graders PTO meeting @ 5:30 pm in DES Library
October 14	Firefighters Read to 5th Graders
October 16	End of 1st Grading Period Grades 3-5 ALL DAY B.A.R.K. Day- theme- *"Believe"*
October 19	**NO SCHOOL** – Teacher In-Service
October 23	Picture Retakes
October 27 & 28	3rd Grade Fall ELA Ohio State Test
October 26-30	Red Ribbon Week
October 30	Blazing the Trails to Literacy Fire Truck Parade Halloween Festivities







Looking Ahead

November 11	Veteran's Day Breakfast & Assembly
November 26-28	**NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break**





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DES Information

Parent Teacher Conferences: Our annual parent teacher conferences will be held on **Thursday evening, October 1 and Friday morning, October 2.** Teachers have already sent handouts to schedule times to meet with families. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher(s).

Red Ribbon Week**:** Defiance Elementary School will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week ***October 26-30.*** Students are encouraged to dress up following the themes for each day:

- ***Monday, October 26***- "Super Heroes Make Healthy Choices!" **(Wear a super hero shirt)**
- ***Tuesday, October 27***- "Team Up Against Drugs!" **(Wear a team shirt or jersey)**
- ***Wednesday, October 28***- "Proud to be Drug Free!" **(Wear red)**
- ***Thursday, October 29***- "Believe in Magic– Not Drugs!" **(Wear something Disney or magical)**
- ***Friday, October 30***- "Say BOO to Drugs!" **(Costume Day/Orange & Black)--** Costumes must be school appropriate– no makeup or props

Mentoring Program: We are looking for adults that are interested in being a mentor for our KS-5 students. If you, a grandparent, or someone you know who is interested, please contact Tony Schaffer at 419-785-2260 ext. 4192. Visit our website at the following link for more information: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSGHMcOC3FMeD3Tq0QJzywBEAzDf0aSadu4allbPZMF95AvRfdu676Oe9EYwe5OExeUQmlhVeXD_69Q/pub

Fall Weather: As the weather changes and the air turns cooler, please make sure you are sending your child to school in a jacket or sweatshirt. All students go outside for recess daily. **Per the DES Student Handbook, students may wear shorts during the first and fourth quarters ONLY.**

PTO Information: Brittany Custard is the PTO President. She would love to have your support during the 2026-2027 school year! Please feel free to reach out to Brittany through the elementary PTO email address, ELEMPTO@defianceschools.net. **They are currently seeking volunteers for the Day of Awesomeness on October 7.** We need parent volunteers between the hours of 10:00-12:00 (3-5 students) and 12:00-2:00 (K-2 students).

The first PTO meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the elementary library. All are welcome! We hope to see you there.

Guidance Monthly Character Word: The Character word for October is **Generosity.** Being kind and willing to share with others what you have. Take a minute to discuss what being generous looks and sounds like with your student. The character attribute is important in both the home and school setting. Adults and children alike can be models of generosity every day.

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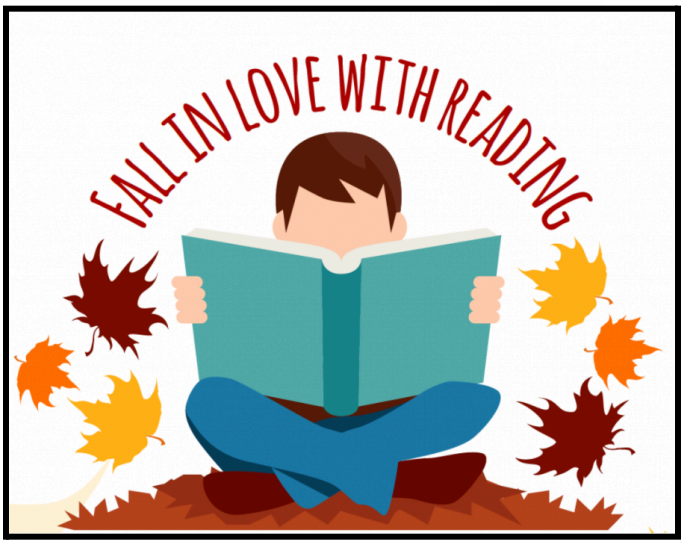
3 – 5 Information

3-5 PBIS: Our first ALL DAY B.A.R.K. DAY for the school year will be on Friday, October 16. The theme is *"believe."* The PBIS Committee has planned several fun, social-emotional activities that revolve around believing in yourself.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee: Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee is a program to identify students from kindergarten through grade 3 who are behind in reading. Schools will provide help and support to make sure students are on track for reading success by the end of third grade. The Department provides policy guidance, instructional tools and resources on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Districts and schools must adopt policies and procedures for annually assessing the reading skills of each student in grades K-3. Each year, districts and schools must administer the reading diagnostic by September 30 for grades K-3. The results of the reading diagnostic determine whether a child is on-track or not on-track in reading. More information and resources can be found at www.education.ohio.gov.

3rd Grade Fall Ohio State ELA Assessment:
All 3rd grade students will be showing what they know on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 and WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28** by completing the Fall Ohio State ELA Assessment. This state-mandated test is an important measure of each third grade student's reading ability. Third graders will also take an additional Ohio State ELA Assessment (as well as one in Math) in the spring. A score of 700 is considered proficient. For more information, check out the Ohio Department of Education website, Third Grade Reading Guarantee | Ohio Department of Education. Please see that your child eats breakfast and receives a good night's rest before this important test. Also, please encourage your child to do his/her best!





Grades 3-5 Ohio State Tests:
If you are interested in seeing what the Ohio State Tests look like, please click on the link: Students and Families. The following sheet should be able to help you navigate your way through the website and get you where you need to go.

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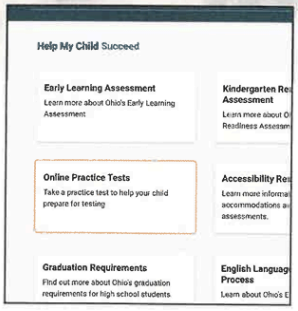
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Department of Education & Workforce | Ohio's State Tests

oh-ost.portal.cambiumast.com/families.html

Students and Families

This is the website for the Ohio State Testing Portal. It is full of resources that you can use to help prepare your child for the Ohio State Tests.



When taking a practice test online, click on Online Practice Tests.

Then, SIGN ON to the Practice Test Sign In page.

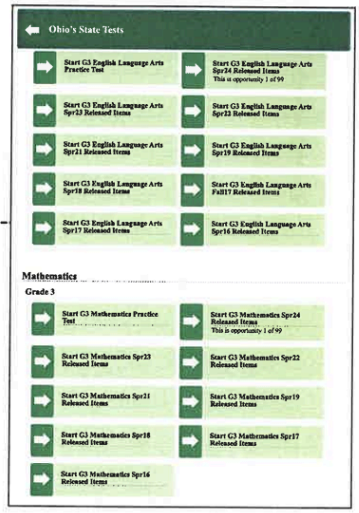
Select the appropriate grade level.

Next, click on the Ohio State Tests (green button).

Then, be sure to scroll down and click on the test that you would like to practice (ELA or Math).

Press the Select button.

Click 'Begin Test Now.'



Tips:

(see example below)

- You will need to scroll the passages to read them.
- You will need to click the gray numbered tabs to go to the next question.
- You will need to click on the Next arrow to go to the next page.
- When you get to the writing section, please be sure to use your own words– don't just copy and paste. Otherwise, you will not receive any points due to "Not enough original content."

