

# SH RK BYTE



Little Blue Elementary  
2020 Quail Drive  
Independence, MO 64057  
Phone: 816.521.5480  
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## Upcoming Events:

- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> TIME for Kids booklet Turn-In
- Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Night, 5:30pm, 6:00pm
- Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> First Mile Event, 6:30pm
- Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> Friday Morning Running Club Begins, 8:30am
- Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> No School-Labor Day Observance
- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Culver's Family Night
- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Family Movie Night, 6pm
- Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> KC Kids' Marathon

## Welcome to the First Edition of the 2014-'15 SH RK BYTE

Welcome to the first edition of 2014-2015 school year *SHARK BYTE*, the monthly electronic newsletter of Little Blue Elementary School. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Little Blue families updated on the events happening in the lives of our Sharks. Through this communication we intend to keep families informed of upcoming school events, share the accomplishments of our students, and

provide insight into daily life at Little Blue.

We hope you find this communication informative and supportive as we strive to highlight the dedication, the honor and the privilege that we have as a staff in serving your students each day.

Thank you for sharing your students with us and we wish each of our families a great school year!

## The School Year is Underway

We would like to thank each of our families for your support in helping us get another successful school year underway! As we begin the school year, our school enrollment is up nearly 10% from last year. We welcome each of our new Shark families and we are so happy to see so many of our returning students.

### Important School Information:

Doors open at 8:45am  
Late Bell at 9:00am  
Dismissal is 3:54pm

School Phone: 816.521.5480  
School Fax: 816.521.5692



## Little Blue Elementary

### to Participate in the Kansas City Kids' Marathon

We are pleased to announce Little Blue Elementary School's participation in the 2014 Kansas City Kids' Marathon. Throughout this 8-week program, students will record miles walked and/or ran during physical education classes, recess and voluntary participation in a Friday morning running club. Our goal is for each Little Blue student to run or walk 25 miles leading up to the final 1.2-mile KC Kids' Marathon. Upon completion of the program, student mileage will total a full marathon! By reaching this goal, our students will complete over 5,000 miles this fall in support of Children's Mercy Hospital's efforts in fighting childhood obesity!

The culminating event in the program is for our students to participate in the 2014 Kansas City Kids' Marathon held on Saturday, October 18th near Crown Center. Through their participation, students will receive a t-shirt and medal from the Kansas City Marathon for their hard work and effort. We are very excited for our students to have this opportunity to participate in this free-of-charge program to help support an active and healthy lifestyle. Students will learn more about this program in their physical education class and information will also be sent home.

#### *The 1<sup>st</sup> Mile Kick-Off Event-August 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm*

Join us for a family evening event as we kick-off our Kansas City Kids' Marathon effort. Families are encouraged to join us on our Little Blue walking trail to complete the first mile of their marathon journey. After your mile, celebrate with a free smoothie from *Smoothie Factory*.

#### *Friday Morning Running Club Begins August 29th*

In conjunction with the Kansas City Kids' Marathon training program, we would like to offer students the opportunity to participate in a before-school Friday morning running club. You and your student(s) are invited to join staff and friends each Friday morning leading up to the KC Kids' Marathon. Your student may be dropped off at the Little Blue walking trail beginning at 8:30 a.m. to complete miles towards reaching his/her goal of 25 miles prior to the Oct. 18th event. Students will be supervised by staff from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and will then be dismissed from the trail to enter into the building for the school day. The first running club will be held on Friday, August 29th!

*A special thanks to David Boulware and Jennifer Malone, financial advisors from the Independence Waddell and Reed office, for all of their support with this effort!*



## Importance of School Attendance

We are striving to reach an attendance goal of 97% overall student attendance with 93.6% or more of our students having 90% or greater attendance this school year. In order to reach these goals we will need everyone's support. Below are just a few facts regarding student attendance and some tips for how you can support great attendance with your child daily!

#### Facts About Attendance:

- Students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. Students who are frequently absent fall behind in academics and miss important socialization concepts that enhance their ability to understand and follow directions or, ultimately, plan for the future.
- Absenteeism hurts the school and district. State financial support for schools is directly linked to student attendance. When students are absent the school loses money.

#### How Parents Can Help:

- ensure that pupils arrive punctually to school each day
- avoid taking family vacations during the school days
- schedule doctor appointments after-school, if this is not possible schedule them in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid missing as much school as possible
- make time to encourage and show interest in school
- attend school events and functions
- don't let your child miss school without a good reason
- create consistent routines for your child

#### The Impact of Lost Learning

90% student attendance equals 17.5 days or 3 ½ weeks of missed school each year! During the course of a student's K-12 career, this would mean 227.5 days of missed school or 1.3 years of lost education!

# Transporting Our Future

The safety of all students riding the bus to and from school is a responsibility we all share. It takes all of us working together, the students, parents, bus drivers and school officials to ensure safety. To assist us in our task of ensuring all our students are transported in the safest environment possible, the District has established the rules of student conduct listed below.

## STEPS TO A SAFE RIDE

1. Follow the bus driver's directions.
2. Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before and stay at least 5 minutes after your stop time.
3. Line up in a single line at the side of the road, no pushing or shoving.
4. Sit on your seat, not on knees or backpack.
5. Speak quietly to each other.
6. Keep hands, feet and other items to yourself on the bus.
7. No food, drinks, gum and/or candy on the bus.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to help keep the bus clean and not purposely or carelessly destroy transportation equipment.
- Damage resulting from misbehavior shall be paid for by the student. Suspension from the bus will occur and continue until all damage is paid for.
- Students will show consideration for other students and the bus driver by being courteous and well-mannered. No profanity or other abusive language.

## BUS ASSIGNMENT AND STOPS

- All students must ride to school and home on their regularly assigned bus.
- Any point of pick-up or departure different from the home must be approved by the principal.
- Drivers will not transport any person not regularly assigned to the bus without prior authorization.



## AHERA NOTIFICATION

The school district of Independence, MO has completed the removal of friable asbestos in all district school buildings. In addition, all facilities have now been inspected by a certified asbestos inspector as required under the ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY ACT OF 1986 (AHERA). A copy of the AHERA plan has been filed with the State of Missouri and a copy is on file with each building administrator.

The AHERA plan is available for inspection during regular school hours. Specific questions may be directed to your building principal or you may contact the director of the district facilities department at (816) 521-5330.



## CHARACTERplus<sup>®</sup> *Inspiring lives of integrity*

CHARACTERplus is a program adopted by the Independence School District in 2008. The purpose of the CHARACTERplus is to emphasize positive character traits in all areas of a student's life. In 2008, parents, community members, teachers and counselors gathered together to determine "traits of the month" that they believe reinforce the positive character traits already taught in many homes.

The traits are blended into the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and are displayed throughout the community. The Independence School District believes that modeling character traits may be the most effective way of passing them on to students. Studies in schools with similar programs have noted significant positive changes in office referrals, parent relations and school leadership.

We look forward to recognizing Little Blue students each month caught demonstrating each character.

The Character Trait of the Month for August is **AMBITION**.

*Ambition is having strong determination to accomplish goals.*



Thursday | August 28 | 6:30pm

# The *First* Mile



Join Little Blue Elementary As We Kick-Off the Kansas City Kids' Marathon

Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

Little Blue Elementary is excited to announce the *First Mile* kick-off event on Thursday, August 29th, 6:30pm to be held at Little Blue Elementary. Join us for a family evening event as we kick-off our Kansas City Kids' Marathon effort. Families are encouraged to join us at Little Blue to learn about this program and have the opportunity to participate, as a family, in supporting us in getting off to a great start!

Following a brief overview of the program, families are invited to join us on our Little Blue walking trail to complete the first mile of their marathon journey. We are excited to announce that we will offer each participant a smoothie, from *Smoothie Factory*, following the completion of the event courtesy of Waddell and Reed advisors, David Boulware and Jennifer Malone.



## Join us for Little Blue's Curriculum Night

Thursday, August 28th,  
5:30pm and 6pm Sessions

Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30pm. There will be two separate informational sessions beginning at 5:30pm and again at 6:00pm in each classroom. Please note that each session will address the same information, therefore it is only necessary to attend one of the sessions per classroom. We hope that by providing two sessions, we will meet a majority of our family's needs with multiple students attending Little Blue. During Curriculum Night you will learn about classroom expectations and routines, curriculum and learning objectives for your student's grade-level and much, much more!

This event is designed to inform our parents regarding important information needed to help support your students this school year. Therefore, we will provide a supervised activity for school-aged children during these classroom presentations.

Please note we will also celebrate our *1<sup>st</sup> Mile Event* this same evening. We encourage each of our families to join us as we kick-off our Kids' Marathon effort at 6:30pm.



# Keeping Our Sharks Safe

## It Takes Each of Us!

Little Blue Elementary welcomes visitors to our school community as we are very proud of our facilities and our learning environment. However, keeping our Sharks safe is our top priority at Little Blue and within the Independence School District. Please review the below information regarding some of our practices, our routines and the ways that you may help us reach this goal on a daily basis!

**A Secure Building:** All exterior doors at Little Blue are locked when students are in attendance. For any visitor to gain access to the building, the buzzer system located at the front door of the school must be used. Office staff will greet visitors through the intercom system and will ask the visitor to provide information regarding his/her visit. At this time, all unknown visitors will be asked to provide a government issued photo I.D. Office staff will determine if entry to the school will be granted. Once entry to the school has been provided, please note the below expectations of our visitors.

- Once inside the building, please proceed to the office to sign our Guest Log.
- Visitors will be required to wear a visitor badge provided by the office during their visit.
- A request to visit a classroom can only be approved by the principal, but is not encouraged due to interruption of the learning environment.

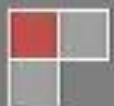
In an effort to keep our schools as secure as possible, all ISD schools will be asking parents to not escort their children to the classroom beginning Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Instead, please leave your child at the car rider door if you choose to walk them to the building instead of utilizing our car rider drop off. If you feel your child is having difficulty transitioning to school in the morning, we are happy and more than willing to assist! Often times we have found, especially for our youngest students, that returning after the first few weekends can be a challenge. We are ready to help!

**Arrival and Dismissal:** Following Little Blue's arrival and dismissal procedures helps to promote the safe movement of students before and after our school day. These procedures also support the Little Blue staff in the safe transition of students from our care to the care of parents. We ask that parents remain in vehicles during drop-off and arrival as staff will support your child in and out of your vehicle. Car rider arrival will begin at 8:45am and will conclude at 9:00am. For the safety of our students, we ask that parents do not drop off your child without staff present. During times of high traffic flow in our car rider loop, we understand this process may be slowed. We feel the extra few minutes these procedures may take are worth the extra effort in keeping our Sharks safe. A more-detailed explanation of arrival and dismissal procedures can be found on our Little Blue website.

**Being Prepared:** Little Blue Elementary and all ISD schools have safety and crisis plans in place in case of an emergency. In addition, students and staff participate in routine drills throughout the school year. We are also fortunate to have the great support of our local emergency responders throughout our community.

**Ensuring the Safety of Our Sharks is a Group Effort:** Through the course of the school year we want each of our students and families to be aware of our school surroundings. If you ever see suspicious activity around our school or any of our ISD schools, please report it immediately.

If you have questions or concerns about safety, please do not hesitate in contacting us at 816.521.5480.



# BECOME A DORSAL FIN DONOR



When you reserve a commemorative dorsal fin for Little Blue Elementary you're not just investing in a keepsake that will be around for years to come, you're also investing in our school community. Proceeds from every fin will support the Little Blue PTA in funding field trips, student activities, Family Fun Nights, teacher appreciation and much, much more!

## Spirit



## School Spirit

### T shirts



### FLEECE HOODY



**ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE AND ON THE LBE WEBSITE**

*Celebrate the Start of the School Year with your Little Blue Friends and Families!*

Join your Little Blue friends in families with a great meal while supporting the Little Blue PTA. On Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Independence Culver's Restaurant will host Little Blue Elementary for a Family Night. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Little Blue PTA to support programs and field trips for our Sharks. Mark your calendars now for a relaxing dinner at one of our newest neighborhood restaurants.



## Need to Report a Ride Change?

We understand that changes may need to occur regarding how your student is to get home from school. We ask that you please report these changes to the Little Blue Office directly by 3pm each occurrence. This notification helps us to make sure students are accurately dismissed and we can report these changes to the classroom teacher in a timely manner.

To report ride changes, please call 816.521.4580.

## Help Provide TIME for KIDS to Our Sharks For Free

Providing TIME for Kids to our Sharks is as easy as completing a few postcards. We need everyone's help in making this an opportunity for our students. There are absolutely no sales involved to any of our families. Please watch for information to be distributed to students the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>. Please return postcard booklets on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Get Your Little Blue Yearbook Today and Save!

- Standard Yearbook: \$16.00
- Personalization with Student's Photo: \$7.00
- Zoom Insert (Current Events Magazine): \$3.00

Order forms available in the Little Blue office or can be downloaded from the Little Blue website.

