

# THE OTT CUB PRESS

LEARNING TO LEAD SEPTEMBER 2023

## WELCOME TO SCHOOL, BEAR CUBS!



We are so excited to welcome students and families back for the 2023-2024 school year! You might have seen some new additions to our hallways as you walked through the building during Meet the Teacher Night. Throughout our hallways there are new banners that include our school logo, the 7 Habits, and our Leader in Me Lighthouse recertification logo!

## LEARNING AND PRACTICING OUR SCHOOL-WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Students in all grade levels participated in a school-wide PBIS boot camp during the first week of school.

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a framework for creating safe and orderly learning environments in schools, while improving the social-emotional outcomes for students. It is a proactive approach that relies on research-based practices,

including developing clear behavioral expectations, teaching these expectations, acknowledging appropriate behavior, consistently correcting inappropriate behavior, and using behavioral data to systematically solve problems.

During our boot camp, students rotated among different locations around the school to learn procedures and expectations. Students were also taught and reminded about Ott's three expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe and how it should look and sound in all areas of the school such as the classroom, the hallways, the restrooms, in the cafeteria, and when on the playground.



4th-grade students reviewed Ott's 3 school-wide expectations with Dr. Laughlin.



Kindergarten students learned about safe dismissal practices with Mrs. Theen.



5th grade students reviewed restroom expectations and rules with Mrs. Robinson, Ott's counselor.

## GET INVOLVED WITH OTT'S PTA

PTA is a wonderful way to get involved and support our school and has already been busy this year! PTA welcomed new kindergarten students and families with popsicles on the playground on August 11th in anticipation of the first day of school. *Thank you, Ott PTA!*



## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## COME MEET THE OTT TEAM FOR ICE CREAM SEPTEMBER 14

Come join us during our Curriculum & Title I Informational Night on September 14. This informational event will be held in your child's classroom. Teachers will share important



grade-level and school information from 6-6:25 p.m. and then repeat this information from 6:30-6:55 p.m. Plan to attend the session that is most convenient then enjoy ice cream in the gym. We look forward to seeing you and your family!



## MEET OUR NEW OTT STAFF MEMBERS!

You might see a new face or two this school year! We are so happy that all of our new staff members are with us at Ott. Joining us this school year is (back row L to R) Mrs. Barbee- 5th Grade, Mrs. Allen- 4th Grade, Mr. Winfery- 5th Grade, and Mrs. Vaughn & Mrs. Irwin- Pre School, (front row L to R) Ms. Munsterman- Music, Mrs. Alexander- 2nd Grade, and Mrs. Stikeleather- PE. Help us welcome all our new staff members to Ott!



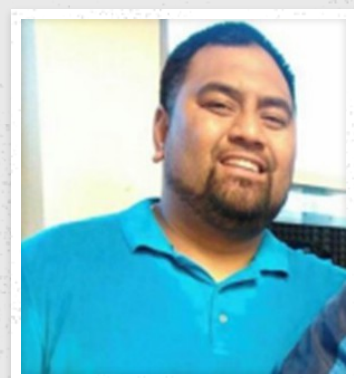
Pictured left to right, front row: Ms. Munsterman, music; Mrs. Alexander, 2nd grade; Mrs. Stikeleather, PE. Back row: Ms. Barbee, 5th grade, Mrs. Allen, 4th grade; Mr. Winfrey, 5th grade; Mrs. Irwin, Early Education; and Mrs. Vaughn, Early Education.



Mrs. Robinson, Counselor

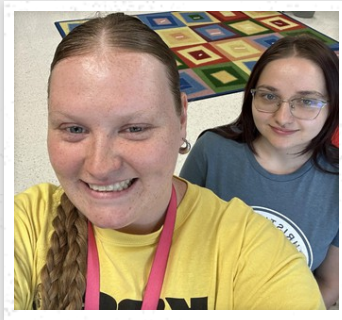


Ms. Kropp, 1st Grade



Mr. Poli, Family School Liaison





Addison Palmer, Kids' Safari  
Youth Specialist  
Aurora Goucher, Kids' Safari

## HABIT 1: BE PROACTIVE

Habit 1 teaches responsibility, initiative, and self-regulation. Students learn they are responsible people. They take initiative and choose their own actions, attitudes, and mood. They do not blame others for their mistakes. How will you be practicing Habit 1?

# The 7 Habits

AND REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Habit 7






**Habit 1-Be Proactive**

Habit 1 teaches responsibility, initiative, and self-regulation. Students learn they are responsible people. They take initiative. They choose their own actions, attitudes, and mood. They do not blame others for their mistakes. They can only be offended if they choose to be.

**Habit 2-Begin With the End in Mind**

Habit 2 teaches setting goals, having a plan, and thinking ahead. Students learn to plan ahead and set goals. They act in meaningful ways and make a difference for others. They are an important part of their classroom and contribute to the school's mission and vision. They look for ways to be a good citizen.

**Habit 3-Put First Things First**

Habit 3 teaches prioritizing, identifying and staying focused on those things that are most important. Students learn to spend their time on things that are most important. This means saying no to things they know they should not do. Students learn to make a schedule and follow through on a plan. Students learn to be self-disciplined and organized.

**Habit 4-Think Win-Win**

Habit 4 teaches cooperation. Students learn to balance courage for getting what they want with consideration for what others want. Students learn to make deposits in the emotional bank accounts of others. When conflicts arise, students learn to look for options that work for both sides.



## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT FOR HABIT 1: BE PROACTIVE



**STAFF OF  
THE MONTH**



**STUDENT OF  
THE MONTH**

**DON'T FORGET!**



Remember, we **do not** have school on the following days:

September 11th

September 18th

September 25th

You can look at the student calendar [here](#).



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**August 31- September 18:** PTA Trash Bag Fundraiser

**September 11:** No School

**September 14:** Ott's Curriculum Night- *Come Meet the Ott Team & Enjoy Some Ice Cream* 6-7pm

**September 18:** No School

**September 21:** 1st Grade Study Trip to 1859 Jail Museum & Marshall's Home 11:50am- 1:15pm

**September 23:** No School - Professional Development for Staff

**September 28:** UMKC Dental 1pm

**September 28:** PTA's Show Love to our Local Heroes Night 7-8pm

**September 29:** Major Saver Fundraiser Kickoff

**Save the Date!**

**October 5:** School pictures--information coming soon!

## INFORMATION WORTH REPEATING

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INFORMATION

All Ott students can receive a free breakfast to start each school day. Upon arriving at school, students in grades K-2 may pick up their breakfast from the gym. Students in grades 3-5 may pick up their breakfast from the back hall. Students will then eat with their classmates in their classrooms. Early education students will be served breakfast in their classrooms.

School lunches are fee-based and cost \$2.85/meal. Free and Reduced Meal Applications are available and must be completed each year for students to receive meal benefits. Click this link to complete an application: [Free and Reduced Lunch Online Application](#).

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all meal charges incurred prior to qualifying for Free or Reduced Meal Status.

For families that qualify for REDUCED price meals, the charge for breakfast is \$.30 and the charge for lunch is \$.40. Even if you think your family might not qualify, we encourage you to complete the application to help provide services throughout the Independence School District.

## LET'S CONNECT WITH SEESAW!

If you haven't already connected with your child's teacher on Seesaw, contact them to get connected. Seesaw is a great way to stay up to date, and you can also see and comment on your child's work!



## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We love all kinds of celebrations at school! Student birthdays are important, so we recognize these special days during our morning announcements. If you would like to drop off a birthday treat at the office for your child to share with the class, please make arrangements with your child's teacher. **Due to health and wellness policies, all treats should be store bought and individually packaged.** Healthy choices such as apple slices, baby carrots, string cheese sticks, pretzels, Goldfish® crackers, Rice Krispies® treats, etc. are encouraged!



## CHRISTIAN OTT ELEMENTARY

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