



December 2018



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Whole Grain Cheese Pizza	4 Mac & Cheese	5 Hot Dog	6 Cheese Nachos	7 1/2 Day: Dismissal @ 12:00
10 Whole Grain Cheese Pizza	11 Chicken Nuggets	12 Taco Salad	13 Bean & Cheese Burrito	14 Cheese Calzones
17 Whole Grain Cheese Pizza	18 Chili with Meat	19 Chicken Patty	20 Cheese Quesadilla	21 Chef's Choice
24 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	25 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	26 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	27 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	28 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)
31 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)				

**Reminders**

- Please keep the office informed of **ANY** changes in your phone numbers or your address. Medication intake policy: *Parents must leave medication with the prescription in the office*
- School uniform is the polo and BLUE or BLACK pants/skirt: **NO JEANS, NO LEGGINGS, NO YOGAS**
- Hoodies must not have any logos except The Dearborn Academy
- Boots are NOT part of the uniform
- Safety is one of the most important issues for our children at The Dearborn Academy. Please report to the office when you are visiting the school.

**The Dearborn Academy Board Meeting**

Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m. All are invited!



**The DolphIN-**

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**December 4:** SIP Meeting @ 7:00 a.m.

**December 4:** Fall Picture Make-ups (Uniforms)

**December 6:** PIC Meeting @ 3:00 p.m.

**December 7:** 1/2 Day: Dismissal @ 12:00 p.m.

**December 13:** Detroit Pistons Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.

**December 13:** Progress Reports sent home

**December 14:** EL Winter Dance @ 4:00 p.m.

**December 19:** School Spirit Dress Down Day

**December 24-January 4:** Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

**January 7:** Back to School



Please collect and send in all box tops to your child's teacher.

**Mission Statement**

The Dearborn Academy is a unique charter school serving a multicultural community through individualized, focused instruction allowing each student to achieve academic excellence and exhibit social responsibility.

**Vision**

We are an Academy dedicated to academic excellence for our young learners. We are innovative, empowering, and absolutely committed to the continuous social development and academic growth of all students. We establish a school learning environment in which our academic goals are articulated with laser sharp clarity and are regularly monitored.

We provide an academic environment where quality learning is fun and enjoyable. We create an atmosphere of trust and support for all learners where diversity is celebrated and honored. We develop actively involved learners who are building self-confidence and a sense of responsibility to be engaged in the global community.

**School Hours**

7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Buses, student arrival, and breakfast begin at 7:15 a.m. Students are sent to their classrooms at 7:55 a.m. (elementary) and 7:50 (middle school).

Children who are late to school (after 8:05) **MUST** report to the office before going to class. We urge you to make every effort to have your child at school ON TIME each day so that your child has a good beginning to their day. When students are late, it disrupts the class as well as causing the tardy student to miss specific directions for the day.

If you need to pick up your child early, we ask that you call the school office at 313-982-1300 a minimum of **ONE** hour prior to arriving.

**Principal's Message**

A friendly reminder that being on time is a positive start to a great day at school! With the temperatures getting colder, and the skies snowier, more of our families will be taking their time getting their children to school. The best way to avoid the heavier traffic is an early arrival. Our doors open @ 7:15 a.m.

We continue to work on building literacy in all academic areas with our students and are confident that all of our families will help in our attempts to grow in the areas of reading and writing skills. Students who read 30 minutes each day will improve more than those who do not. This independent reading is key to the development of reading skills. The winter break also offers time for students to get in some practice. Though it is vital for students to enjoy time with family and friends, the days off do provide time to get in extra reading and math practice in order to secure an advantage. Please note that you are able to get a library card that provides access to any Dearborn library. Please contact the Main Office for details.

With that, I bid you all a safe and happy holiday season. See you in 2019!

### PK News

As the winter months are approaching, please be mindful of the weather! In order to go outside your child will need a winter coat, hats, gloves, and boots. If you need help finding any of these items, please come to us. We are planning to have a few extras in the classroom.

*Please make sure that you arrive at school on time for drop-off and pick-up.*

In this busy month, we enjoy talking about families, friends, relatives, giving and sharing. We are lucky to have families from a variety of different cultures. Our children are excited to play together, so happy to learn and experience each other's likenesses and differences.

We are 4 months into the school year now and each child has progressed so much in their own way! We love being around your child/ren, watching them grow, and experiencing their different personalities. We have been working on using kind words, kind hands, words instead of hands. Also, we have been working on choosing green choices instead of red choices. Every single child is grasping all of these in some form or another! If you would like to know how we are encouraging these things at school, please feel free to contact the preschool team or speak with us before or after school and we will give you some ideas!

### Kindergarten News

Our Kindergarteners continue to work very hard to learn new things. The students will have started reading short stories, therefore they continue to work on letter sounds and recognition. We continue to improve writing skills and have started writing words. All of these things are first steps to learning how to write sentences.

In math, the students are working on ABB patterns, counting pennies, and learning how to solve story problems using math manipulatives. They continue to work on counting, number recognition, and number writing. December's social studies unit will be educating the students on the different types of holiday celebrations around the world. A letter will be sent home prior to the unit.

It is very exciting to see the progress the students have made so far. We would like to continue to ask for home support with letter sound, letter recognition, writing, and reading. Support with number recognition, number writing and counting, is always helpful too.

Since it is getting colder, please provide the proper outdoor clothing for your child. The children do go outside for recess and therefore need winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. Please feel free to reach out to us if these items are not easily accessible.

Reminders: Homework goes home every Monday and is to be turned in on Friday's.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade News

First graders are working hard on habitats. Your child should be able to tell you about their habitat: ocean, forest, rainforest, savanna, desert or polar. The final project will be a group presentation to teach the rest of the class about their habitat. We are working on fact fluency in math and should be able to do the doubles, adding one and adding zero facts. There is math homework every night, unless there is a math test. Please remember to send your child to school in a heavy jacket, hat, gloves and scarf everyday because as long as weather permits, we will be going outside for recess.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

December will be an exciting month in second grade! By now, the students have their routines in place and are learning more and more each day. In math, students will be able to measure inches using rulers, tell time by the half hour, and begin subtracting single digit numbers. In ELA, students are going to write paragraphs about experiences in the winter, past, present, and future tense verbs, and also begin talking about adjectives. In social studies, students will learn about landforms and the map of the United States.

In science, students will understand what pollination is and how and why it happens.

Thank you to the parents that made it to parent teacher conferences in November. If you were unable to make it, please let the teacher know and we can re-schedule it.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

We can't believe December is here already. The snow is right around the corner. Please make sure your children have coats, hats, gloves, scarves and anything else they need to stay warm! In math we are finishing addition and subtraction operations and will be getting ready for multiplication after winter break. In reading, we are continuing with reading strategies as well as working on our comprehension. Please make sure you are continuing to read with your child at home with comprehension questions. In science, we are learning about plant life cycle and heredity. In social studies, we will be learning about the history of Michigan. We loved meeting everyone at conferences and appreciate all that parents do to support their child's education outside the class. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns!



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News

It was such a pleasure to meet all of you during our conferences!

In science we have finished our waves unit. The next unit we will be transitioning into will be Rocks and Minerals. Children will be learning about formations of rocks and minerals and how fossils are formed.

During math this quarter we will be learning how multiply two digits by one digit and two digits by two digits. This is a skill that children will use throughout their life. Please make sure your child is practicing their basic multiplication facts at home. If you need flash cards, please be sure to ask your fourth grader's teacher right away.

In social studies, we have been identifying and researching significant physical and human features of Michigan. Physical and human features of Michigan include the Great Lakes, the peninsulas, and even the Mackinac Bridge! Test your student's knowledge by asking them to name some physical and human features in the city you live. Your student will soon be able to distinguish the ways in which humans interact with the earth!

This quarter in reading, your fourth grader will begin to read more informational books. These books include autobiographies, magazines, newspapers, and books about people or animals. We would like to encourage your child to be reading informational books at home. If you need help picking out an informational text for your child please let us know, we would love to help!

We are looking forward to a great quarter with your amazing fourth grader!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Hard to believe we are already nearing the end of 2018. It seems like we were just celebrating the New Year! With winter break approaching, we know that you and your children will be taking advantage of the time off to see family and friends and celebrate the holidays. Try not to let your student fall behind though! Studies show that when students have long breaks from school that their learning can actually regress. In order to keep students sharp try the following activities at home over break.

1. Read for 30 minutes a day: This could be something that you and children do together! Check out the Dearborn Public Library for books. The more your child reads, the better reader they will become.
2. Practice math facts: In class we have been working hard on multiplication and division facts. Help your child practice by making flash cards out of index cards. Practicing 10-15 minutes a day can help them retain the information for the New Year.
3. Practice spelling: Help your student practice spelling by reviewing their words in the practice book from previous tests. Get the whole family involved and have a "spelling bee," or play hangman.
4. Research someone famous: Many students love a certain band, singer, or actor; turn that interest into a research project. Have them look up information about their favorite celebrity online. They can then use the information to write a research paper.

Enjoy your break and we will see you back in 2019! Stay safe!

### Middle School News

**Math:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be moving from Expressions and Equations to Inequalities and how they all relate in the real world. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be moving from Scientific Notation to Equations and how we use them in the real world.

**ELA:** Students in Mrs. Finkbeiner's class have wrapped up their unit on Fiction. This month they will concentrate on a unit on Non-Fiction reading, which will include doing research and evaluating sources.

**Science:** 6<sup>th</sup> graders will begin their unit on interdependent relationships in ecosystems. We will be focusing on competition, organism interactions, relationships between biotic factors, flow of energy, dynamic nature, and biodiversity.

7<sup>th</sup> graders will begin their unit on structures and properties of matter. This includes taking a closer look at heat and matter, changes of energy of molecules, and thermal energy.

8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin their unit on forces and interactions. They will study Newton's third law, changes in force and motion, electric and magnetic forces, and gravitational forces.

### World Language News

**Arabic 8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Students will be introduced to the Holiday unit in Arabic, where they will learn about the different kinds of holidays, recognize cultural practices and products of the Arabic-celebrating events. They will also compare and contrast the holidays across different countries.

**Arabic KG:** Students will continue learning the alphabet along with their sounds, and examples of the words that start with these letters. Students will continue practicing writing their names in Arabic, as well as singing the song of the days of the week.

**Arabic Low Elementary:** Students will continue learning the alphabets along with their long vowels and short sounds, in addition to learning some vocabulary words for each of these letters. Students will be introduced to the holiday unit.

### Specials News

TDA has opened the library to the excitement of all our Dolphins! The students have eagerly checked out books and have been reading them at home and during reading time at school. As the enthusiastic readers return books they have read, they quickly find another one to check-out. It is so exciting to see the students are using the library to expand their reading interest. Go Dolphin Readers!!!

