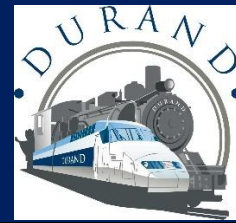


The Bertha Neal Buzz



News from the Principal Issue #1 August 12, 2019

Dear Bertha Neal Families,

I hope this communication finds you enjoying your summer and making lots of wonderful memories with family and friends! It's hard to believe that we are already gearing up for the 2019-2020 school year. My name is Robert Cawson and I will be the new principal of Bertha Neal this year. I cannot say how happy I am to be here and be a part of your community. I have already had contact with some of you and I am eager to get started. It is my promise to you to be fully committed to you, our community, our school and our students in order to keep moving us forward. Below, you will find important information to help you prepare for the start of your child's school year.

Tuesday, August 20th – Open House (5:00-6:30)

Bertha Neal will be hosting an open house for kindergarten and first grade families to come meet their teacher and see their classroom. This is on the same night as Robert Kerr, but the times are staggered by 30 minutes and we have increased the length by 30 minutes so you have the opportunity to get to both if you need to.

Thursday, August 22nd – First Day of School

The first two days of school are half days. Please note that there has been a time change from last school year. The school day will run from 8:35 to 12:10. This will be consistent on all half days this year.

Monday, August 26th – First Full Day of School

Our full day school hours this year will be from 8:35 to 3:25.

Please be sure to call the office if you have any questions. I am learning all I can and trying to make the transition as smooth as possible. We really appreciate your patience and understanding. Our school office hours will be 8:00 to 3:00 (until school starts). We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child here at Bertha Neal Elementary!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Kind Regards,
Mr. Cawson, Principal/Preschool Director

rcawson@durand.k12.mi.us

UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 20: Open House 5:00
6:30 (Bring School
Supplies)**

**August 22: First Day of
School!**
½ day (8:35-12:10)

**August 23: ½ Day of School
(8:35-12:10)**

**August 26: First Full Day of
School (8:35-3:25)**

**August 29: Home Football
Game: Capac (7:00)**

August 30: No School!

**September 2: No School!
(Labor Day)**

**September 4: Preschool
Open House! (6:00-
7:00)**

**September 6: Preschool
Classroom Visits
(9:00-11:00)**

**September 9: First Day
GSRP/Preschool**

**September 10: First Day of
Preschool (3 Year
Olds)**

**September 13: Homecoming
Walkthrough (9:30 est.)
and Football Game: Mt.
Morris (7:00)**

School Supplies



You should have received a class placement letter and supply list from us over the summer. If you did not, please contact the office. If you are having any difficulty purchasing school supplies, please give us a call. We would be happy to help out, as we receive many generous donations from various parents/organizations. All requests are 100% confidential.

Lunch



Please remember that free and reduced lunch applications need to be completed annually; it must be completed at the start of the school year, even if you received this service last year. The application is available in the office, at the Open House, and can be found on the district website at: <https://dasfood.durand.k12.mi.us>

PRESCHOOL



Preschool programs will start slightly after kindergarten and first grade. The Open House for preschool will be September 4th from 6:00-7:00. As I continue to learn and gain preschool director responsibilities, the communication will be quicker and more efficient as I know many of you have wonderings on events and placements. Please continue to be patient and note the dates listed on this communication to start. Our wonderful staff is helping me to coordinate anything else needed to allow for a smooth and excellent year for your child. Classroom visits will be Friday, September 6th between 9:00 and 11:00. Finally, the first day of GSRP programs will be Monday, September 9th with 3 year olds starting Tuesday, September 10th.

Welcoming New Teachers

This year we are welcoming some new faces and some new roles for teachers. Mrs. Bollinger will be teaching kindergarten along with Mrs. Neumeyer as they are joining Mrs. Barta and Mrs. Thomas who taught kindergarten last year. They are all working extra hard to be ready to start the new school year and are very excited to meet your kiddos! Just in conversation with them, I am looking forward to the fantastic memories to be made in kindergarten this year! Mrs. Mitchell will also be joining us this year as our Title teacher to provide support to our students and staff throughout the year as needed. She will continue her role as our building's literacy coach, as well. We are thrilled to have her on board in her new role!

Looking Ahead: August and September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|----------|
| Aug. 11 | Aug. 12 | Aug. 13 | Aug. 14 | Aug. 15 | Aug. 16 | Aug. 17 |
| Aug. 18 | Aug. 19 Welcome Back Staff! | Aug. 20 Open House! 5:00-6:30 | Aug. 21 | Aug. 22 | Aug. 23 | Aug. 24 |
| Aug. 25 | Aug. 26 | Aug. 27 | Aug. 28 | Aug. 29 Home Football Game: Capac (7:00) | Aug. 30 No School! | Aug. 31 |
| Sep 1. | Sep. 2 No School! Happy Labor Day! | Sep. 3 | Sep. 4 Preschool Open House (6:00-7:00) | Sep. 5 | Sep. 6 Preschool Classroom Visits (9:00- 11:00) Away Football Game: Byron (7:00) | Sep. 7 |

First Day GSRP: 9/9

First Day 3-Year-Old Program: 9/10