Karen’s & Chris’s Corner – Notes

Thank you!
This is a huge thank you to our school’s PTO, AAOCC (Ann Arbor Coordinating Council) for all the start up work including the 1st Day of School Coffee Meet & Greet!

AAOCC Executive Committee
Co-Chair Katherine Pearson (2018-2020)
Co-Chair Laura Lux-Wells (2019-2021)
Treasurer Stacey Seaver (2018-2019)
Secretary Patricia Stepp (2019-2021)

Other thank you’s...
Angie Watson for coordinating volunteers and sending the weekly help wanted.
Katie Williams has connected a lot of new parents with mentors.
And, thanks to Erica McLeod and Emily Fichter for organizing this year’s kindergarten playdates.

And more...We have so many parents doing so many things for our school every day. Whether you are helping out at swim time, organizing classrooms, getting your kids ready for school, or any one of a thousand other kindnesses, a huge THANK YOU to all our families.

Curriculum Night
Curriculum Night for Ann Arbor Open will be held on Thursday, September 12 beginning at 6pm. Curriculum will be segmented in different sections. From 6pm-7pm, Kindergarten through 4th grade teachers will share an overview of curriculum and expectations for the school year. From 7pm-7:30, Karen and Chris will present in the auditorium where art, music, library, and PE teachers will be introduced. We will also introduce our student intervention and support service teachers, school nurse, and building literacy expert. Parent representatives from AAOCC (Ann Arbor Open Coordinating Committee/PTO), and AAPAC (Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Council) will be introduced. This will also include building and district updates, including an update on the 3rd Grade Reading Law. Immediately following, from 7:30-8:30: 5/6 teachers will 5/6 classrooms. And, wrapping up the evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm, 7/8 teacher will present. There will be a separate rotation schedule for 7/8 teachers, and school counselor that will be available at Curriculum Night.

What is curriculum night? This is the night for parents to see classrooms and to hear a bit more about what students will be learning this year. It is also an opportunity to meet other families in your child’s classroom.

Curriculum night is NOT the time for individual concerns and questions about particular children. Those types of conversations should be reserved for Parent-Teacher Conferences that will be held in October.
Communications at curriculum night are informational. There will be limited time for questions, so questions should be general, clarifying questions rather than critical or personal inquiries. Please demonstrate respect for our expert teachers and for other parents by keeping the tone kind and congenial, and by being mindful about listening and speaking for the purpose of understanding. Critical, personal concerns are best raised at another time by contacting the teacher and/or principals and requesting a time to meet.

**Ann Arbor Open Clubs & Athletics - New AD**
Please join us in thanking Chad Downs for many years of excellent service as Ann Arbor Open’s Athletic Director. Over the years, Chad has built a program that has grown in the number of sports and clubs offered as well as significantly increasing student participation in all programs. Chad will be helping new AD, Cedric York, through the leadership transition. Cedric is in his second year as a 5/6 teacher at Open, with previous experience as both a student and a teacher at various schools in AAPS (and Italy). Welcome Cedric!

**Retirement**
After more than 20 years of service to Ann Arbor Open, Karen Davis, will retire from AAPS. After working elsewhere in the district for a decade, Karen D joined the Open family during the principalship of Lovey Bradley. Karen D has led our office team with a steady, competent hand. She’s often the first person new families meet at Open, and she’s the first person to great staff and students on most mornings. Karen D does more than can be listed here. She manages the school budget, answers the phones and doors, organizes an unending list of forms of documents, applies ice packs to injuries, and so much more. She has shepherded at least five new administrators and handful of interims through the various processes that are unique to Open. Perhaps most importantly she handles both emergencies and sensitive situations with kindness, confidentiality, and a calm demeanor. Karen Davis’ last day at Open will be October 31st.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**
- 9/12 – Curriculum Night 6pm K-4, 7pm 5-8
- 9/25 – Early Release Day
- 10/23 – Early Release Day

**Shop the Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop and Support our School!**
Donations are up so the store is full. Stop by and find your deal. The Shop is located at 2280 S. Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor.

The Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop is a nonprofit 501c3 organization supporting the Ann Arbor Public Schools and its students’ enrichment. Profits from sales are distributed to participating AAPS PTOs, PTSOs, and 501c3s which sponsor clubs, organizations, teams, and enrichment activities in their schools. [http://www.a2ptothriftshop.org](http://www.a2ptothriftshop.org)
Fall into After-School!

AAPS Rec & Ed is excited to offer several after-school classes focused on fun, learning, movement, and discovery. Registration is now open, and spots are filling fast! Please see class options below, and visit Rec & Ed after school classes for details. For scholarship information, click here.

Classes that will be held at Ann Arbor Open include:
- Journey Through Time With Art
- The Power of Drawing - Early Fall
- The Power of Drawing - Late Fall
- Chess: Beginning/Intermediate - Early Fall
- Chess: Beginning/Intermediate - Late Fall
- Kid Yoga
- French

Please email Karen Siegel at siegelk@a2schools if you are interested in an after-school Spanish language conversation/reading group. This group would supplement the school curriculum by providing an extended language experience for students K-8 who are beyond the introductory level in Spanish. If there is sufficient interest, we will explore the possibility of an after school class through Rec and Ed, to be taught by 1/2 Teacher and certified Spanish teacher, Sarah Kairis.

(NOTE: Sarah already teaches a Rec and Class geared for adults, check the Adult section of Rec and Ed schedule.)

Drop Off and Pick Up on Brooks St.
Please remember if you use Brooks St. to drop off or pick up your student do not park or pull over to the curb within 20 feet of the stop sign or over the crosswalk. This is illegal and you may be subject to a ticket issued by the Ann Arbor Police as they are making their patrols around our community.

If you use the Brooks Street side please make sure to drop off your student along the curb on the same side of the school, using the passenger door. We do not advise that students be dropped off on the other side of the street unless you ensure your student crosses at the crosswalk.

Help us improve the safety of the Ann Arbor Open community by following these tips along Brooks.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS REMINDER
The early release days for the 19-20 school year are:
- September 25, October 23, February 25th, and May 20
- There will be no Rec & Ed Childcare offered after school on Early Release Days.

- Get organized and stop losing items to the lost and found with stick-on, iron-on, stamp, and bag-tag labels, 20% of your purchase will go to the AAOCC.
- Order at: https://www.mabelslabels.com/c/?type=fundraiser&b=1640
- No deadline, order anytime.
- For more info contact Elaine Oberlin-Nesbit: oberlin_nesbit@yahoo.com

Non-Discrimination Statement: No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender expression, socioeconomic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, or disability.
August 27, 2019

Dear Ann Arbor Public School Parent,

It is that time of year again when parents and children are preparing to go back to school. The City of Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor Police Department want to help you be safe and successful getting your student(s) to and from school. Here are some safety tips we should all follow when returning to school this September:

1. Be alert for posted school speed zones (25 mph) and obey the posted speed limit.

2. Watch for traffic control signs that may prohibit your ability to turn left or right when entering or exiting your school drop off zone.

3. Watch for school buses. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the school bus is stopping to load or unload children. State law requires you to stop and wait until the bus has turned off their red flashers.

4. We have 19 different locations across the city staffed with Crossing Guards. Always stop for a Crossing Guard holding up a stop sign and remain stopped until that Crossing Guard has cleared the intersection. Again, state law requires you to stop, failing to do so can result in a misdemeanor citation, a trip to court and a hefty fine.

5. Do not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light, waiting to make a turn or when parking. This forces pedestrians to go around you and potentially put them in the path of moving traffic.

6. Never pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk or in a school zone.

7. Parents follow your schools designed drop off and pick up procedure(s). Do not stop and unload your child in traffic, even if the traffic has stopped for a traffic light or other reason.

8. Do not double park on the street or in the parking lot.

9. Do not unload your children on the street side; always unload on the curb side.

10. Supervise young children waiting at the bus stop, walking or biking to school.

11. If your child is walking to and from school, provide them with bright colored clothing so motorist can easily see them.

When returning to school this fall, remember PATIENCE is the key. We all have somewhere to be, but showing a little patience while waiting in line can go a long way. Lastly build in an extra five or ten minutes during drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Our schools are busy places and you may need the extra time.

Let us work together and make back to school safe for our children this fall.

Sincerely,

Officer Jamie Adkins

Ann Arbor Police Department – Special Services Unit
Anne Solari will be doing an LGBTQ+ Ally training, September 18th from 6-8 pm in the Media Center. Do the terms confuse you? Are you looking to support all students better? Do you just want a better understanding of what those letter stands for? What’s the difference between sex and gender? This is for you!!! All these questions and more will be answered. ALL parents welcome!! (We are looking to secure some older kids for babysitting, stay tuned). Kindergarten through 8th grade and alumni welcome!! Don’t hesitate to email Anne with questions. Solari@aaps.k12.mi.us

ANN ARBOR OPEN SCHOOL FAMILIES:

We Need You!

TO PURCHASE SCRIP and RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL!

Last year we raised $8800 to enhance classrooms, specials and field trips at Ann Arbor Open. Let’s set a goal to raise even more this year!

You can contact us by email at aaoccscrip@gmail.com, via text at 734-717-8475 or on Facebook (search for “Ann Arbor Open Scrip”).

Non-Discrimination Statement: No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender expression, socioeconomic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, or disability.

AAO website & calendar • http://aaopen.a2schools.org
http://news.a2schools.org
Welcome to Band at A2O! As part of the Ann Arbor Public Schools music department, our band program enjoys a tradition of excellence and offers a rich curriculum of rewarding experiences for students. Read on for information about our bands and the events and opportunities scheduled for this school year.

OUR ENSEMBLES

All 5th graders will learn to play a band or orchestra instrument this year. During the first three weeks of school students will get a chance to try the instruments and make their instrument choices. Parents can expect information to come home the first week of school. As soon as instruments are assigned, fifth graders meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in classes grouped by instrument family, and will present an evening concert at the end of the school year. Parents of band students will also be invited to an Informance during their child's class before the December holiday break.

Intermediate Band is for students in 6th grade who have played an instrument for at least one school year. We rehearse on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and present two evening concerts each year, in the late fall and spring. In addition, Intermediate Band students present a chamber music recital in conjunction with the A2O Music Showcase (formerly Coffee House). Students will be bringing home specific information the first week of school about requirements and responsibilities for Intermediate band, and detailed information about these performances will be sent home well in advance of the performance dates.

Advanced Band is for students in 7th and 8th grades who have played their instruments for at least two school years. We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and present four concerts each year, including the city-wide Bands in Review and Picnic Pops. Advanced Band students have additional performance opportunities, including Section Leader auditions, Michigan All State auditions, Solo and Ensemble Festival, the A2O Music Showcase (formerly Coffee House), summer camp scholarship auditions, and high school band auditions for 8th graders. In addition, 7th and 8th graders take music field trips every other year to hear UMS and A2SO concerts. Students will be bringing home specific information the first week of school about requirements and responsibilities for Advanced Band, and detailed information about all of these performances will be sent home well in advance of the performance dates.

OUR DIRECTORS

CAROLYN BYBEE is a trumpeter who grew up in rural Iowa, and she has music education and performance degrees from Iowa State University and The University of Michigan. Ms. Bybee is in her 26th year of teaching in the AAPS. She has taught in many different buildings, and is currently teaching at Burns Park in addition to A2O. She also works at the Balas Administration building as administrator for the AAPS instrument inventory databases and instrumental music supplies. Carolyn is a professional trumpeter and has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and with many of the symphony orchestras in southeast Michigan. She has performed extensively with the Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theater orchestras, playing twice in Carnegie Hall with the DSO. Carolyn was honored to perform as the trumpet soloist for the opening ceremonies and mass during the visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit. In addition to her own teaching and performing, Carolyn enjoys making music with her husband Charles and their son Dylan, who are also accomplished musicians.

ERIN LILLIEFORS is in her tenth year of teaching. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Music Education in 2009. Soon afterwards, she began teaching in Hooks, Texas, and then taught in Winnsboro, Texas for 4 years. When her family relocated to Michigan, she began her graduate studies in music composition at Eastern Michigan, and has worked for EMU as a graduate assistant. Before coming to the AAPS, Erin taught in the Morenci, Michigan Area Schools as a K-12 general music teacher and band director. This is her third year working with band students at Ann Arbor Open, and she also teaches at Forsythe, Lawton, and Abbot schools. Outside of school, Ms. Lilliefors is a composer and has recently published pieces with Leading Tones Publications. Erin enjoys spending her free time going to the library and parks with her daughter Charlotte.
2019-2020 Field Trip and Yearbook Contributions
Ann Arbor Open Coordinating Council
Our school’s PTSO

You can pay by credit card, online from the AAOCC website:
http://www.aaopencc.org/field-trip-and-enrichment-contributions

Please return the form, found on the back of this page, and contributions to school as soon as possible. If you cannot contribute this year, we still need your form to gauge supplementary fundraising needs.

Field Trips
From kindergarteners going to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market to 7th and 8th graders touring Chicago, field trips and enrichment programs are an integral part of Ann Arbor Open’s curriculum at every grade level. Kids, teachers, and parents all look forward to these memorable experiences that distinguish our students’ Open education. Each year, the Ann Arbor Open Coordinating Council (AAOCC) -- our school’s parent-teacher-student organization -- helps fund these programs. To this end, we ask each family to make a contribution in accordance with the requested amounts listed in the table on the back of this page. We ask that each family contribute what they can afford. If your family is able to give more than the requested amount, please consider doing so, as it will benefit other Ann Arbor Open families. Because Ann Arbor Open seeks to promote a fair and inclusive environment, every child will have the opportunity to participate in every outing their class takes regardless of their family’s contribution.

Yearbooks
The field trip contribution includes the cost of yearbooks. Traditionally, the cost per yearbook is about $7 each. Please consider donating extra if you are able to do so. All children will receive one yearbook at the end of the year regardless of their family’s contribution.

If you have questions, please contact Michela Arnaboldi, Contributions Coordinator at aaofieldtrips@gmail.com.

Requested Field Trip Contributions by Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Requested Field Trip Contribution Per Student</th>
<th>Actual Average Annual Field Trip/Enrichment Cost Per Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K - 2nd</td>
<td>$75 (This amount will be allocated to your child’s class fund)</td>
<td>$148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - 6th</td>
<td>$110*</td>
<td>$207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th - 8th</td>
<td>$400**</td>
<td>$544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Form on reverse →
Starting in 3rd grade, classes have overnight field trips/camps that require extra funding.

This 7th/8th grade amount combines the $75 contribution needed for local field trips and activities with the funds needed for the end-of-year trip to Chicago or Camp Wolverine. Expect to hear more about the end-of-year trip as the year progresses.

Payment options are available for all and especially 7th/8th parents given the large cost of the end-of-year trip. If you are a parent interested in payment options, please contact Michela Arnaboldi at aaofieldtrips@gmail.com.

(AAOCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Please check with your tax accountant if your contribution is tax-deductible. Tax ID#38-3336334)

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### 2019-2020 Field Trip and Enrichment Contribution Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent/Guardian Name(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Name</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Field Trip Contributions for my Child/Children $ 
Additional Contributions/Donations for Field Trip/Enrichment Fund $ 
Additional Yearbook Contributions/Donations ($7 each) $ 
I cannot contribute in full this year, but I can donate $25 to the fund $ 
I cannot contribute in full this year, but I can donate to the fund $ 
Total $ 

Checks should be made payable to AAOCC and enclosed with this form in a sealed envelope. Please off drop forms and contributions in the box located near the school office or mail them to: AAOCC Field Trip and Enrichment Contributions, Ann Arbor Open, 920 Miller Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Please return this form even if you cannot contribute this year.

Please make your contribution as soon as possible to help us plan our spending throughout the school year. For tax purposes, all contributions received prior to December 20th will be deposited prior to the end of the calendar year.
Shop Happenings August-November 2019!

- Are you ready for school? Shop our Labor Day 50% Off Everything Sale!
- Hey Students! Do you need Service Hours? Volunteering at our shop is a fun way to earn them!
- Do pumpkins and ghosts get you excited? Check out our Halloween costumes and decorating items!
- Interested in raising unlimited funds for your group or school? Participate in our Veteran’s Day Raffle! You get 100% of ticket sales!

Don’t forget to visit our Showcase, where you’ll find unique and collectible treasures every day! (Located next to our Donations Door)

SHOP HOURS: MON-FRI 10-7 / SAT 9-6 / SUN 11-5
DONATION HOURS: MON, THU, FRI 10-6 / CLOSED TUES & WED / SAT 10-5, SUN 12-4

Call 734-996-9155 to schedule a FREE Furniture Pickup