

FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS



Mr. Bellomo, Principal  
Ms. Batko, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Kathy Ahonen, Secretary  
Mrs. Mary Casango, Clerk  
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September 4, 2019

Fox Families,

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. As the Principal of Fox Elementary, I am extremely excited to begin my sixth year with our community. I honestly can't wait to see the smiling faces of our students and work with our wonderful staff, parents, and children.

Some of you may be new to our Fox family and many of you have been a part of our family for years. Once at Fox, you will quickly realize that each team member, no matter their role, will be working to make this the most memorable school experience they can for your child. A school should feel as comfortable as a home. A school should be a family. At Fox, we are a family and one of the most important things that we will do each day is build relationships with our students.

Throughout the year your child will engage in many different opportunities and experiences that will have a positive impact on their education. Remind your child to always try their best and celebrate even the smallest successes with them. As a parent, I can understand that we always want our child to shine the brightest, but what's most important is our child's character.

At Fox, helping your child to understand the importance of their character will be done on a daily basis. Through a focus on utilizing a Growth Mindset in all we do and displaying a positive character treating other people the right way, I am confident your child will have an extraordinary year of personal growth both academically and in character.

Thank you for being a part of our journey in learning and our wonderful Fox family.

Mr. Bellomo

Principal

## GROWTH MINDSET TIPS FOR PARENTS

**What YOU SAY can positively affect your child's success in school and in life. Research shows that parenting with a *GROWTH MINDSET* better ensures your child's success in school, sports, and life.**

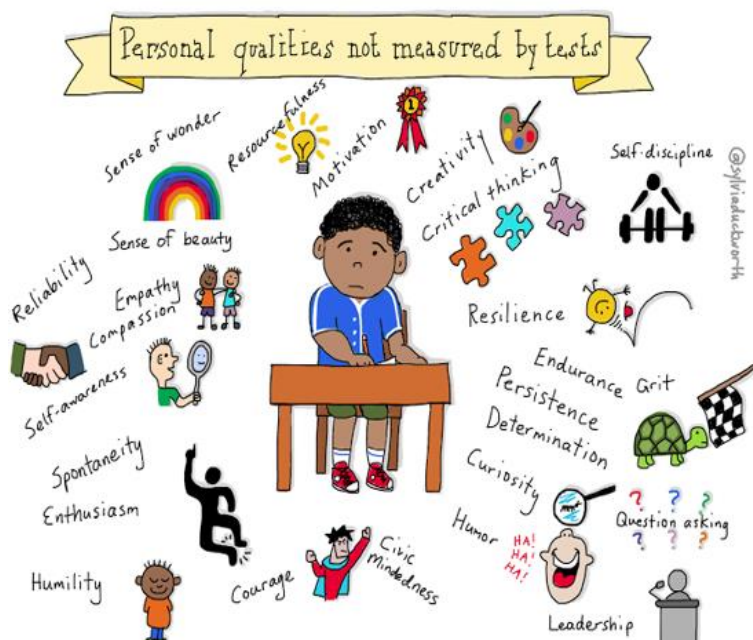


The approach that adults use to talk with children about their learning can greatly impact their achievement. We listed a few tips below for discussing achievement with your child. These tips are based on research from psychologist Carol Dweck's book, *Mindset*.

- Be very specific. If a child is playing baseball rather than just telling them “nice job,” comment on the way the child held the bat or kept their eye on the ball. If a child is reading aloud, it is helpful to give feedback about their pace of reading or expression.
- Focus on the process involved in a task. When a child brings home a high grade on an assignment it is natural to offer the comment of “good job” or “you are so smart.” However, Dweck's research indicates that it is more beneficial to praise the child for the process they used to achieve the high grade. For example, it is very helpful to praise a child for checking over their work or for spending extra time studying for a test. This will help a child to know what they need to continue to do in the future to be successful.
- Recognize effort rather than performance. This will help children avoid the fear of failure and be willing to take risks. Always talk about a grade as a result of the work a child did rather than who that child is as a person. It is important to explain to a child that they did “B” level work rather than saying they are a “B” student. This empowers the child by helping them understand that they are in control of their actions which directly impact their achievement.

## DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

At Fox, we recognize that it is important not only to support each child academically but to meet the needs of the “whole child.” Each child is valued as a unique learner with individual cognitive, physical, behavior and social emotional needs. It is our belief that the Fox staff members can best support the needs of each child by working in partnership with families and the community. We know that together we can help children achieve a higher level of excellence through greater motivation and engagement by meeting their basic needs: to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged.



One of the ways that we support the needs of the “whole child” is through our schoolwide Culture and Climate goal. A key component of this goal is our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. Throughout the year all Fox students will be learning about ways to demonstrate positive behavior and character in our school. Each month our school holds a Fox PAWS assembly and all positive behaviors are celebrated along with various students receiving Growth Mindset and Character Matters awards.

Additionally, our school staff has been working hard to perform skits to model the Positivity Project character traits that we learn about in all classrooms each week. Click on the link below to learn more about the Positivity Project. <http://nationswell.com/positivity-project-good-values-great-citizens/>

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Dear Fox Families:

It is with great excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Assistant Principal of Fox Elementary. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing community. Fox is known for being a “true family” because of the kind, loving and supportive families and staff. I feel so fortunate to have such a special place to call “home.”

It has been a privilege to serve the students, staff and families of the Chippewa Valley community as a teacher and administrator for the last seventeen years. I have had the opportunity to work at several elementary schools in Chippewa Valley during my career. I loved working at all of them just as I know I will love working at Fox! I was hired at Shawnee when it opened back in 2002. As a teacher, I enjoyed collaborating with and leading other staff members to work on school initiatives. The love of working together for the common good of the school led me to pursue my dream of becoming a school administrator. I earned my Education Specialist degree in leadership from Oakland University in 2012. Shortly after earning my degree, I was given the opportunity to work with the Ojibwa Elementary community as an administrative intern from January 2013 until June 2014. Following my internship, I was hired as an Assistant Principal. For the last five years I have been split between several different elementary schools as an Assistant Principal: Sequoyah and Cheyenne, Sequoyah and Ojibwa, Sequoyah and Shawnee and now Shawnee and Fox.

Fox has always been a positive environment for students to learn and grow. It is my strongest desire to use my experiences to fuel the love of learning and promote success for all Fox students. I am eager to get to know the many wonderful students and families at Fox. I love interacting with students during the school day and at all the wonderful PTO events.

In addition to serving as the Assistant Principal at Fox, I will also serve as the Assistant Principal at Shawnee Elementary. Typically, I will be at Fox on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Wednesdays. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help make the school year a success for you and your child!

Sincerely,

Heather Batko

Assistant Principal



**Contact Information**

Email: [hbatko@cvs.k12.mi.us](mailto:hbatko@cvs.k12.mi.us)

Direct Phone Extension Fox Elementary: (586) 723-5683

Direct Phone Extension Shawnee Elementary: (586) 723-6803

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## **Positivity Project**

At Fox, our school has spent a great deal of time over the past several years focusing on Growth Mindset. Last year, our school added ideas and curriculum from The Positivity Project. The Positivity Project focuses on character education and a couple of their motto's include, "Other People Matter" and "Character Matters".

I look forward to seeing the Positivity Project continuing to grow and strengthen here at Fox. I just love hearing the conversations and Positivity when I go into the classrooms. Our kids are truly wonderful and POSITIVE things are happening. Our Fox kids will realize that Character Counts and Other People Matter!

## **From the Positivity Project:**

<https://posproject.org/why-relationships/>

### **Why Relationships?**

"The Positivity Project's mission is to empower America's youth to build positive relationships." "Why relationships? Because they are the cornerstone of health, happiness, and resilience...and (according to experts) many jobs of the future. That is why we developed a strategy that schools use to inspire positive relationships (student-to-student and student-to-teacher) and cultivate a school-wide #OtherPeopleMatter Mindset." ~Positivity Project

### **Positivity Project at Fox:**

This year our students will be discussing character traits such as CURIOSITY, TEAMWORK, OPEN-MINDEDNESS, INTEGRITY, PERSPECTIVE, CREATIVITY, BRAVERY, COURAGE, CHARACTER, GRATITUDE, Knowing Our Words and Actions Affect Others, Kindness, Humility, Self Control, Perseverance, Hope, Optimism, Prudence, Supporting Others Who Are Struggling, and many more important traits we can use each day.

I truly believe in the Positivity Project motto that "other people matter". I honestly believe that our character matters most! Character is what will separate our students from the rest as they get older. Character is what will allow them to rise to the top!

## **Check out our Principal's Update: (Updated each week)**

Find out about some of the upcoming events taking place at Fox each week.

Click on the link below:

<https://www.smores.com/5fqh6>



## **Fox is on TWITTER - Connect with Us!**

Fox Elementary is on TWITTER. TWITTER is a social media platform that allows people and organizations to post photos and information online. The Fox TWITTER page is used to announce various Fox events and to post various photos of things that take place in our school and classrooms during the week. To access this page please create a TWITTER account at <https://twitter.com/>. Once you create a TWITTER account you can follow our school at **@Fox ElemCVS**

As always, thank you for being a part of the Fox Family!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Bellomo, Principal

## **Absence Line**



If your child will not be in school:  
PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL'S 24 HOUR ABSENCE LINE

**(586) 723-5699 by 9:00 a.m.**

In order for their absence to be excused and verified. Please state the students first and last name, grade, teacher, date of absence and reason for absence. It is essential for the welfare of the other children that you do not send your children to school if they are sick.

### **Leaving early:**

- Adult must sign student out from office
- Identification must be presented to office staff for all early dismissals.
- Students will be dismissed ONLY to person(s) listed on the student EMERGENCY CARD

## **CHILD CARE**

**SACC Director: Ms. Erika Moore 586-723-5684**

Our Child Care Program will be operated each school day from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Registration is \$20.00 per family.

To sign up for SACC, please register online at:

[www.chippewavalleyschools.org/for-parents/sacc/](http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org/for-parents/sacc/)

More information is available by calling the childcare office at **586-723-5684**.

## **PaySchools Central**

As we prepare for the new school year, we want to remind you that Chippewa Valley Schools has adopted *PaySchools Central* as an online payment resource for the parents in our district. *PaySchools Central* is a secure payment system which simplifies school payments in an easy to use online portal.

You will receive paperwork from your child's teacher.

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## FOOD SERVICE DEBIT PROGRAM

### ALL SCHOOLS

*How to open an account:*

- See CV website for DEBIT FORM: [www.chippewavalleyschools.org](http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org)
- Online debit deposit: [www.SendMoneyToSchool.com](http://www.SendMoneyToSchool.com) (need student ID number)
- Send check (payable to CV Food Service) or cash to school with student
- Student hands check/cash to Cashier in Cafeteria – account activated/deposit applied!
- **NOTE:** If ID card is lost or stolen, it must be reported to cafeteria cashier immediately. Food Service is not responsible for fraudulent usages. Yes, it's that simple! If you need further assistance, please feel free to contact the Food Service Department Hotline at 723-2294.

### ELEMENTARY Meal Prices

Student Lunch \$2.75

Lunch Plus \$4.25

Reduced lunch \$0.40

Regular Breakfast \$1.55

Reduced Breakfast \$0.30

Milk \$0.60



## School Messenger

Our goal is to have 100% of the Fox community signed up for School Messenger. School Messenger provides us with a quick and easy way to communicate important information and is just one more great way for us to keep you informed of all the exciting happenings here at Fox.

### Choosing Notifications for School Messenger

School Messenger allows you to receive phone, email and text notifications from your child's school. You can select which of these notifications to receive and which format(s) you prefer. These settings are managed through the Parent Portal.

#### To change your School Messenger Settings:

1. Log into the Parent Portal.
2. Click on School Messenger Link at the bottom right of your parent portal page.
3. The following page will appear: All messages within the last 30 days appear on this page.
4. Click on Contacts and the following will appear
5. Students will appear here. Click on edit to change contact information.
  - a. You can add one number for text messages (SMS).
  - b. You can add up to 5 email addresses.
  - c. The 5 main phone numbers come from PowerSchool. If the numbers you want to include are not listed please contact the building to update your phone numbers.

Subscribe to School Messenger today.

## Parent Portal

The CVS Parent Portal allows parents to access important information about their children. Parents can access lunch account balances, attendance, bus route information and student schedules for students in grades K-12.

## Picture Day

Fall Picture Day will be held on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. If your child will be absent that day, Picture Makeup Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am. to 1:30 p.m.

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**Helpful reminders of things that do not change throughout the year.**

*FOX POLICIES & PROCEDURES*

SCHOOL DAY TIMES	
First Bell	8:27 a.m.
Full Day:	8:33 – 3:18 p.m.
Childcare:	6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



ECSE a.m.	8:33 a.m. – 11:11 a.m.
ECSE p.m.	12:41 p.m. – 3:19 p.m.
Half Days:	8:33 a.m. – 11: 27 a.m.
Breakfast:	8:10-8:25 a.m.
Students are not to arrive before 8:27 a.m. unless attending Childcare or purchasing breakfast	

**Absence Line (586) 723-5699**

If your child will not be in school, **please call the schools 24 hour absence line (not only the teacher)**

- State the students first and last name, grade, teacher,
- Date of absence and reason for absence.

**Arrival - Late Arrival & Early Dismissal**

Parents must come into the office to sign students in and out when there is a change in the daily schedule.

- Adults must sign student in & out from office
- Identification is necessary for all early dismissals.
- Students will be dismissed ONLY to person(s) listed on the student EMERGENCY CARD.

**Emergency Cards**

- In case of an emergency at school, please make sure that current work numbers and emergency numbers are available to the school office.

**Contacting Fox Staff**

You can contact the school staff one of two ways:  
E-mail. Type first initial of the staff member's first name and full last name coupled with this suffix [@cvs.k12.mi.us](mailto:@cvs.k12.mi.us) ([fbellomo@cvs.k12.mi.us](mailto:fbellomo@cvs.k12.mi.us))  
Call 723-5600. If you know the extension dial 723 and the extension directly.

**Food Service Program**

- Lunch must be ordered the day before. Ex: Lunch on Tuesday is ordered on Monday
- Fox Pizza Day is Thursday!
- Menus and or nutrition information @:  
<http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org/departments/food-service/>
- **Fast food is not suggested** in our lunchroom
- Our food service offers lunch options for all students. If your student does not choose to order a hot lunch, they may bring a bag lunch from home. **Outside restaurant food** is not suggested to be delivered to your student during the day.

**Cafeteria and Visitors**

Our lunchrooms are not equipped to handle extra guests, including parents and or family members.

- Please send lunch with your child in the morning.

**Immunization Requirements**

The State of Michigan requires all students to be properly immunized. Failure to provide the office with proof of proper immunization documentation may result in exclusion from school. If you have any questions, please call the office at 723-5600. During the year the Macomb County Health Department visits the school and tests for vision and hearing. Medication Policy (forms are available in our office and on-line @[www.chippewavalleyschools.org](http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org), and on our school website.)

- Chippewa Valley Schools provides a form and requires written instructions from the physician before any **Prescription medication**, is dispensed.
- A form is necessary for **over-the-counter medications** that will be dispensed at school.
- All medication **MUST** be in the original container or packaging.
- Containers or packaging **MUST** be labeled with the child's name, medication, dose and time.
- Medications brought to school in other containers will **not** be given to the student.
- Information on the use and adverse effects of any medication given in school should be provided to the school by the parent, pharmacist or physician.
- All medications **MUST** be transported to and from school by **parents only** and include the proper forms.

**Visitors Welcome**

- Please remember that all visitors must report to the office.
- Sign in and pick-up visitors pass.
- This pass must be worn while you are in the building.
- At the conclusion of your visit, please stop by the office to sign out.
- It is important that our visitors restrain from walking around the building once they are done with their volunteer activity.

**Parking Lot and Traffic**

- Lot closest to the creek – BUS AND STAFF ONLY
- Lot closest to the cat-walk – VISITOR & STUDENT DROP OFF
- Please keep all cross walks clear. DO NOT stop your vehicle in the middle of this area.
- DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR unattended along the sidewalks
- ALL pedestrians MUST cross at the crosswalk with a Crossing Guard

**Childcare/SACC (586) 723-5684**

- Our Childcare program is available from 6:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:18-6:00 p.m. each day that school is in session.

**Policy**

- Students should **not** bring toys, any hand-held electronic devices, or other expensive items to school. Bringing in electronic devices is available when your child's teacher has given them permission.
- Fox School will not be responsible for personal items that may be lost or damaged.
- Toys, electronic devices, or other items will be collected and kept in the office should they be used without permission or at inappropriate times.
- Items may be picked up by a parent in the main office.
- Although your child may have a cell phone on his or her possession, all phones should be kept off during the school day. Failure to comply with this policy could result in the phone being turned into the office.
- **Please refer to Student-Parent Code of Conduct for new policies**
- **Skate Boarding, Smoking, Pets and Roller Blades are NOT ALLOWED on School Grounds for various safety reasons.**