

Gilson Brown Welcome Back Newsletter

2017-2018

Back in Business

We are back in the full swing of school. Students are starting to learn routines and follow procedures but still need a lot of reminding. You can help by asking your child(ren) about procedures in the school. You can ask about how they turn in papers, homework, go to the restroom, line up for lunch etc.



Safety Week

We will be having our safety drills from September 7th through September 18th. During that time, we will be practicing our lock down, fire drill and bad weather procedures as well as a bus evacuation practice. I've talked to students about these only being practices, but if you could remind them of that I would be grateful. Sometimes students come home and tell parents they had a fire at school and everyone had to go outside. With your help in reminding the students, they will understand that it is just practice and that everything is ok.



Parent/Teacher Group Meetings (PTG)

Below are the dates for our PTG meetings for this school year. These meetings are very informative, casual and enjoyable. Our board and officers, along with the teachers, are interested in your thoughts and suggestions. Please try to attend and bring someone along. There is childcare available.

September Meeting - Thursday, September 14th at Gilson Brown-6:30 - 7:30

Early Dismissal - Wednesday, September 20, 2017-12:40

October PTG Meeting - Tuesday, October 10 at West-6:30 - 7:30

Fall Festival - For Gilson and West students - September 29th-4pm - 7pm

McTeacher Night for Gilson and West - October 3rd at the McDonald's on Broadway in Alton-4-8

Please mark your calendar for a fun night at Gilson Brown on September 29, 2017. This is our Fall Festival for both West and Gilson hosted at Gilson Brown. There will be games, activities, bounce houses an inflatable climbing wall, food, and fun! Parking will be at St. Ambrose with a shuttle running throughout the event. If you have kids in strollers, someone can drop you off with your stroller, drive and park at St. Ambrose and then catch the shuttle. Handicapped parking will be available at Gilson Brown.



Mindset © Can Stock Photo

You will be hearing and seeing a lot from me and your teachers about the idea of Growth Mindset. We will be working diligently to instill a growth rather than a fixed mindset for your child(ren). Many people feel that their ability to learn is fixed from birth, that we can only be as smart as we are. Because of the work of Dr. Carol Dwek and her team, we have learned and are still learning that intelligence is not fixed and can grow. This is done through hard work, effort, and grit. It's important for your child to know that school is supposed to be hard and that he/she isn't supposed to already be "good" at everything. If we are able to do tasks set in front of us without any effort, then our brains do not grow. Your brain is a muscle, like any muscle in your body. If you want your muscles to get stronger, you must work them out. You need to continuously increase the effort to these muscles. Your brain needs the same workout. Many people see failure as an end. However, if you have a growth mindset, you put yourself in a position to believe that you can grow from failure, you begin to recognize failure as a catapult toward growing your muscle, your brain, and becoming grittier because you don't let failures make you give up.



Parent Drop off and Pick Up

As we move into a better routine for this school year, I want to remind all of our past Gilson families and share with our new families about pickup and drop off. When you drop off in the mornings, please drive around the back side of the building and pull up on the south side to let your kids out of the cars. There will be an adult there to watch them get safely into the building. There is NO drop off in the front of the building.

If you are picking your student up at the end of the day, you should do the same thing. Drive around the back of the building to the south side. We will send your child out of the door with an adult to your car. You may stay in your car and enjoy your a/c and tunes while you wait.

Arrival and Dismissal Times

School starts at 8:15. If you are dropping off in the morning after 8:15 you will have to come into the building and sign your child in. Your child will then receive a tardy pass. We will escort your child to his/her classroom.

School dismissal for Gilson Brown is 2:40 pm. Please do not come to the office to pick up your student. Use the pick up procedure mentioned above.



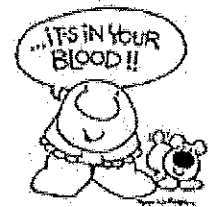
Change in Transportation

Due to the incredibly busy nature of a school office, we ask that, if you are going to make changes in your child's transportation home, that you call the office by 1:30 in the afternoon so that we may make the changes on our end and ensure the teacher gets the information. Thank you for your help with this.

Save The Date

Gilson Brown School will partner with Munganast Toyota to host an important event. On October 21, there will be a Blood Drive at Munganast Toyota in Alton. Please mark your calendar so that you and your family and friends can come out to this event. Every blood donation saves three lives! Who wouldn't want to be a part of that? Not only will you be a life saver, but you will assist in helping Gilson Brown earn money for our school. There will be more information to come in the next weeks. Hope to see you there!

**GIVE
LIFE**



Kindergarten

Wow, what an incredible group of kindergarteners this year. The class of 2030 is looking amazing. Students are learning all of the procedures we have at Gilson, they are making friends, and are experiencing that with some hard work and determination, they will succeed. Please keep talking about how important school is and ask your kids what they struggled with in school, what they are able to do today that they couldn't yesterday or last week, and please remember to read to your kids.

1st Grade

First grade is no exception to the excellence going on at Gilson Brown. Our first graders are remembering the procedures from last year, learning the ins and outs of their new classrooms and becoming the role models for our kindergarteners. Please remember to have the same conversations with your first graders about the importance of school. Continue to read with your kids every night and listen to them read to you! What a joy it is to watch them grow.

