

March 2023

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# The John Wood Parent Newsletter



## From the Desk of Principal Igras

Dear John Wood Families,

I can't believe we are in our last trimester of the 22-23 school year. I want to take time to thank all of you who are having your child participate in the weekly Wood Rocks Reading Principal's Challenge. As always, reading at home helps your child to strengthen their language, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

It looks like spring is just around the corner, however you never know when we may have that unexpected snow/rain shower. Since the weather is always changing this time a year, please take that into consideration when getting your child ready for the day.

Just a reminder to all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents that the state iLEARN test will begin the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks so much for being great parents and working with us to make your child's elementary school experience a great one.

Principal Igras

**Boost Your Child's Literacy Skills!  
Play Word Games**

### IgraSPY

Mrs. Igras

Every month, one John Wood student who is seen by me going above and beyond in the school setting, receives the IgraSPY trophy and certificate.

**February**

Kenna Riley – Mrs. Shalla

## Spring Break

### April 3 - 7

John Wood Elementary School  
6100 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
(219) 650-5305  
[www.mvsc.k12.in.us/wood](http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/wood)

## Dean's Discussion

By Mrs. Swift, Dean of Students

**“The more that you READ, the more things that you KNOW. The more that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO!” ~Dr. Seuss**

Hello our wonderful John Wood families!

Welcome to March! We started off the month with Read Across America and celebrated none other than Dr. Seuss' birthday! It brought me great joy to be the guest reader in many classrooms and in the library the last several weeks. It is my goal to continue visiting classrooms and taking a few minutes to read a book to them! Any and every opportunity we can expose our children to stories and print will help to increase their ability to read independently and increase comprehension. Besides, going into the classrooms and spending time with all of your littles makes my heart so very happy and makes me miss being in the classroom daily.

As a reminder we are still monitoring behavioral referrals and keeping track for the Dine with the Dean incentive that will take place the week before Spring Break. Please continue having conversations with your children at home about acceptable behavior in school, on the playground, and the bus, as we are seeing an increase in both bus referrals and recess referrals. I am so excited to be able to share a meal with a student from each class that I want as many students as possible to have the opportunity to be entered into the drawing for this!

As always, thanks for sharing your precious children with us here at John Wood. As I wake up daily with a smile, I can't wait to get here to see all of the students and celebrate with them all of the progress and growth they have made this school year!

## FACES

Mrs. Hehr, Family and Community Engagement Specialist

*What does it mean to be “referred to truancy court?”*

The end of the school year is quickly approaching, but unfortunately, unexcused absences and tardies are really adding up for some students. If your child is chronically truant, the school will make a referral to truancy court. When you first appear in court, a representative from Geminus Corporation will offer you the opportunity to sign up for the CAPS (Consistent Attendance Promotes Success) program. If you sign up for this, participate fully in the program, and your child's attendance improves, you may not even have to appear before the judge. If you choose not to participate in the CAPS program, you will have to appear before the judge, where you will explain to him/her why your child has been truant. The judge will rule on how to handle the situation. You will always have a chance to improve upon your child's attendance before other penalties are assigned.

However, if you ignore the order to show up in court, you do not participate in Geminus CAPS program, or your child continues to be truant, you may face legal punishment. Indiana laws IC 20-33-28 and IC 20-33-24 make it a Class B Misdemeanor to allow your child to be truant from school. Punishments can include a fine, community service, a suspended license, a bench warrant, or jail time.

Once a referral to truancy court is made, it does not matter if you withdraw your child from school. You will still have to appear in court.

### Attendance Policy

#### **Unexcused - Referred to truancy court at 10 unexcused absences**

- Any time a student misses school for illness without a doctor's note (*after* their 5 allowed sick days).

- Any time a student misses school without a phone call or note.

#### **Tardy - Referred to truancy court at 20 tardies**

- When your child arrives to school after 8:25 without a doctor's note.
- When your child leaves school early (missing less than half-day) without a doctor's note.

#### **Excused**

- Your child can be excused for 5 sick days in total before a doctor's note is required.
- The school will accept a doctor's note from a dentist, family doctor or pediatrician, specialist, eye doctor, or therapist.
- Funerals are excused if there is an obituary or prayer card shown to the school.

**\*\*\*Tardies and absences may be excused for other reasons after being considered by administration.**

**\*\*\*ALWAYS call the school if your child is going to be absent.**

**\*\*\*Vacations must be approved by Principal Igras prior to the student being absent. A Vacation Request Form must be completed.**

**Vacations will not be approved during testing weeks or the last week of school.**

If you have any questions or need assistance, never hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to help.

Phone – 219-650-5305 ext. 6551

Email – [rhehr@mvsc.k12.in.us](mailto:rhehr@mvsc.k12.in.us)

## February Attendance

As we continue to encourage good attendance, we would like to recognize the class who had the best attendance during the month of February. Mrs. Carney's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class had 97.86% attendance! They have the honor of keeping the “Beary” attendance award in their room for this month and received a small prize!

# Good Citizens February 2023

## ECD

Nadira Muhammad –  
Ms. Headd (Miss Thea)  
Sophia O'Reilly –  
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

## Kindergarten

Titus Sherman – Mrs. Anderson  
Alexander Allen – Mrs. Scott  
Londyn Lockhart – Mrs. Shalla

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

Journee Carson – Mrs. Pace  
Colby Jacobs – Miss Talian  
Damian Johnson – Miss Welsh

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

Lucas Boord – Mrs. Carney  
Oren Mihail – Mrs. Foster  
Carmen Perkins – Mrs. Marshall

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

Aliyah Brown – Mrs. Cseke  
Louis Robb – Miss Hull  
Brooke Baisden – Mrs. Mahy

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

Keiridon Mays – Miss Jongsma  
Farrah Colquitt – Miss Vlassopoulos

## Multi-grade

Daijon Jones – Ms. Halliburton  
Jaiden Woodson – Ms. Polacek  
Elizabeth Lopez – Ms. Wiley  
Jakiah Hill – Mrs. Nikolov

## Daily Reminder

Remember each day to send the following with your child:

- Charged device
- Device charger

# Curt Hoffman Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from MHS who also attended John Wood Elementary School for a minimum of three years. Students who were in the Honors Program are eligible provided they lived in the John Wood School district during those years.

Interested students can apply online at:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Ztq2bJATtOLT4CKkTx\\_YLRvs3Xxm2kN7v5zU10dpfQWlpA/vi/wform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Ztq2bJATtOLT4CKkTx_YLRvs3Xxm2kN7v5zU10dpfQWlpA/vi/wform). The link can also be found on the MHS Guidance Department page. The deadline to submit applications is April 28, 2023.

This scholarship was created in memory of Mr. Curt Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman was principal of John Wood School from 1989-1998, when he lost his battle with cancer.

# Carol Vesa Scholarship

Another scholarship available to a graduating MHS senior is the Carol Vesa Scholarship. This is a \$500 scholarship available to a student who is going into education. While being a former John Wood student is not a requirement, preference will be given to former JW students.

Interested students can apply online at:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11jFaJCyxYDoWVcVqVEihSr7xINJq7Kn9/view>. The link can also be found on the MHS Guidance Department page. the deadline to submit applications is April 28, 2023.

This scholarship was created by Miss Vesa's family. Miss Vesa was a beloved kindergarten teacher at John Wood for 38 years until she passed away rather suddenly from a reoccurrence of cancer in the spring of 2004.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Honor Roll 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester

## A Honor Roll

Brooke Baisden  
Aurora Eberly  
Jacob Lang  
Sydney Wigley-Sims

## A/B Honor Roll

Kamau Akbar  
Nadiya Akbar  
Maya Castro  
Kevin Englerth  
Alondra Gonzalez  
Londyn Hill  
Peter Moore  
Thaya Nunn  
Marleigh Pohl  
Mason Riley  
Terrell Toney  
Valoria Wardlow

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester

## A Honor Roll

Kaelyn Kitchens

## A/B Honor Roll

Jaxx Anoman  
Rylan Dworak  
Keiridon Mays  
Issac Mendoza  
Alexander Nawrocki  
Zane Theodorakos  
Isaiah Watson  
Alani Williams  
Mariah Williams

## Pop Tab Collection

John Wood School is still collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House of Indiana. Simply remove the pop tab from the aluminum can and put them in your favorite collection container. When you are ready to send them to school, just put them in a Ziploc-type bag and send them with your child.

# Perfect Attendance 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester 2022-2023

## Kindergarten

Hannah Mican  
Keoni Washington

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

Adaline Jones  
Jakhi Kellogg  
Ella Troyer  
Maleah Young

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

Ayden Chhutani  
Jon Kellogg  
O'Lana Patterson  
Emmanuel Porter  
\*Eva Shaw  
Michelle Sherman  
Abigail Silva  
Alaina Washington

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

Amelia Dulla  
Leila Grady  
Lovell Grady  
Sara Webb

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

Farrah Colquitt  
\*Kamarion Flakes  
\*Latrice Hubbard  
Liam Stockstill  
Mariah Williams

\* - denotes Perfect Attendance for both trimesters.

## Reminder

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to call and let the school office know why a child is not in school. Make sure you call 650-5305 then press 2 before 9 a.m. if your child will not be in school.

# PTO News

Our next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will recognize the March Good Citizens and discuss plans for possible events for the end of the school year.

## Coca-Cola Codes

Continue sending in Coca-Cola codes. Codes can be found under the cap of most Coke products. Codes can also be found on the tear-off flap on cases and inside the bottom of the shrink wrap on Dasani Water cases. Those nickels add up!

## Box Tops for Education

Box tops are now digital. You will very rarely find a product that still has physical clips to turn in. For us to get credit for your box top purchases, you now need to download the free Box Tops for Education app. Then, when you get home from shopping, just scan the qualifying purchases and we will get credit instantly.

## Strack & Van Til/

### Apples for the Students

This is the LAST MONTH to collect Strack receipts! All receipts must be dated no later than March 31, 2023. Please turn in any receipts ASAP. The last day we will be accepting receipts will be Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the first day back from spring break, but we have a deadline to mail the receipts or we won't get the credit. Once we mail in the receipts, we will receive a final total of how many points we have earned. We will then be able to "purchase" items for our building using the points earned. There is a collection box in our front foyer or you can send the receipts with your child and they can turn them in to the office.

## Popcorn Friday

We continue to treat our students once a month to freshly popped popcorn. For only 50¢, students can purchase popcorn to eat with their lunch or enjoy at recess.

The day before the scheduled popcorn day, your child will bring home a purple ½ page note reminding you that Popcorn Friday is coming. If you would like your child to receive a bag of popcorn at lunch, you will need to

return the form with 50¢ attached. No change will be made. Anything over 50¢ will be considered a donation to the PTO. Students will only be allowed one bag of popcorn. All students will receive their popcorn during lunchtime. Students who do not finish their popcorn will have the opportunity to finish it during their recess time.

Three volunteers are needed each Popcorn Friday to pop and bag the popcorn. If we do not have volunteers on Friday morning, the money will be sent back home and there will be no popcorn that week.

# Social Media

Did you know that there are several ways that you can keep updated about what is going on in our school and in the corporation? In addition to Class Dojo, Seesaw, Skyward, emails, phone calls and paper notes that go home with students, there are social media sites.

## Twitter

### MCSC Superintendent

Mr. Nick Brown  
@MerrillvilleSu3

### John Wood Principal

Mrs. Sharon Igras  
@WoodPrin

## Facebook

### Merrillville Community School Corporation

[www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/](http://www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/)

### John Wood PTO

[www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto](http://www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto)

# Small Card, BIG Results

## **2023 Merrillville Education Foundation Major Saver Campaign**

The Merrillville Education Foundation is excited to be offering Major Saver cards for sale through the Merrillville schools. These \$10 cards are “Buy One, Get One” offers for many local restaurants. Students will receive the sales packets starting **Tuesday, April 11, 2023**. The sale will last approximately two weeks. Proceeds from the sale of Major Saver cards directly support all the schools and the activities of the Merrillville Education Foundation. **All the money generated from this fundraiser goes back to the children.** In this way John Wood School can fund innovative and creative projects in the classroom and school and allow students to have broad educational experiences.

**From 2002-2021 since the Merrillville Education Foundation started, John Wood School has been awarded \$47,168.57 in teacher grants and Major Saver fundraising.** We hope this will inspire you to promote this year’s Major Saver cards for your school.

Major Saver cards can be purchased via cash, check or online at [www.majorsaver.com](http://www.majorsaver.com) for \$10 each. The online sale can be credited back to a particular student and school. All cards purchased online will be **mailed** directly to the customer. Administrators, Teachers, and MCSC Employees can also purchase cards to support this initiative.

The Major Saver App is now LOADED with THOUSANDS of offers valid NATIONWIDE!! Your Major Saver card will come with a code so you can download and access these deals. You’re no longer limited to just savings in the Merrillville area. Going to Chicago or Indianapolis for the weekend? Open your app and take advantage of savings there too!!

Major Saver is making online sales easier for friends and family! On our homepage you are able to enter the student information to create a CUSTOM LINK for your child that can be shared via social media

or email. This link will automatically credit the online sale to your student when friends and family use the link to make their purchase!

Major Saver stresses safe selling and discourages door to door campaigning. The company encourages students to sell to family members, church patrons, neighbors, or other adults the family may know; and to always make sure their parents are involved.

Please consider purchasing one or more Major Saver cards this year to help benefit the Merrillville Education Foundation and the students within the district.

Thank you for your continued support! Be ready for the Major Saver 2023 card coming soon!

## Dress Code Reminder

As we begin to have warm days, we are all excited to shed our coats and start wearing warm-weather clothing after the long and cold winter. However, please remember that we have a dress code at John Wood.

The dress code includes no shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length, no sheer or see-through clothing, no “spaghetti strap” or strapless tops, and no bare midriffs. Also, we ask that the children do not wear flip-flops, sandals, or open-toe shoes. If a child is wearing these, he/she will go outside for fresh air, but will not be allowed on the playground equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Upcoming Events

### **Every Thursday Buddy Blue Day**

Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

### **Every Friday Pirate Pride Day**

Wear John Wood spirit wear, Merrillville spirit wear, or even just purple to show support for our school community! Everyone who wears purple will have their name in a weekly drawing. One winner will be pulled from each grade level to win a small prize.

### **March 27-31**

#### **Disability Awareness Spirit Week**

See the article on page 6. The days are also listed on the green calendar/menu that was sent home at the beginning of the month.

### **March 28**

#### **Spring Pictures**

Photographers will be at John Wood this morning. **Only** students who have pre-ordered online will have their photo taken. Go to:

<https://inter-state.com/FlyerEntry/77174KA>

### **April 3-7**

#### **Spring Break**

No school for all students. Have a restful break! School resumes on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **April 11**

#### **Major Saver Assembly**

Students will meet for a brief assembly where they will learn about the MEF Major Saver fundraiser. See the article on this page for more information.

### **April 11**

#### **Monthly PD Day**

Students will be dismissed at 12:35 on this day so teachers can participate in Professional Development. Students will be expected to log onto their devices in the afternoon and complete assignments.

### **April 17**

#### **iLEARN Testing Begins**

All third- and fourth-graders will take this state-wide standardized test. We would like to remind you that attendance is important on these days. One of the best things you can do to prepare your child for these tests is to make sure they get a good night’s sleep and eat a nourishing breakfast.

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# Spring Pictures

Inter-State Studio will **only** be photographing those students who **order online before picture day**. This is a pre-pay program and will be the **only** opportunity for your child to participate in spring pictures this year.

If you do not order online, your child will **NOT** be photographed. Online orders are accepted until 11:59 p.m. the night before pictures.

Please direct all questions to the Inter-State Studio office at (219)662-4036. **All orders are 100% satisfaction guaranteed.**

**Picture Day**  
**March 28, 2023**

**Order Code**  
**77174KA**

**Link to order**  
<https://inter-state.com/FlyerEntry/77174KA>

## Reminder from Nurse Julie

Just a reminder to everyone of some actions that can help to protect yourself and our students to help stop the spread of germs.

1. Encourage the students to cover their mouths and nose with a tissue or cough in their sleeves.
2. Continue to wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizers if soap and water is not available.
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, especially when someone is ill.
5. Encourage good health habits: get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids and try to eat nutritious foods.
6. Encourage to stay home when ill (staff and students)

Even though masks are no longer mandatory, if your child attends school with a lingering cough, a mask is recommended.

# March is Disability Awareness Month

Students have been exposed to various learning opportunities about disabilities this month. As we conclude the month, we are planning a "Disability Awareness" spirit week.

**Monday – March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
"Sensory Friendly Monday"  
Wear your pajamas

**Tuesday – March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
"Blend Together"  
Wear tie-dye

**Wednesday – March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
"Be a Hero for Disabilities"  
Wear your favorite superhero shirt

**Thursday – March 30<sup>th</sup>**  
"Light up the World"  
Wear blue or an Autism shirt

**Friday – March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
"We are all different but make up the BEST school!"  
Wear purple

### Did you know?

Several famous people have been diagnosed with and have learned how to live a full life with a variety of disabilities. Just a few are:

#### Blindness

Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles

#### Dyslexia

Tom Cruise, Keira Knightley, Danny Glover, Magic Johnson

#### Cerebral Palsy

RJ Mitte

#### ALS

Stephen Hawking

#### ASD

Elon Musk

#### Epilepsy

Prince, Elton John

#### Communication Disorder

President Joe Biden (Stutter)  
Barbara Walters (articulation on /s/)

#### ADHD

Michael Phelps, Ty Pennington

#### Dyspraxia

Daniel Radcliffe

#### OCD

Howie Mandel

## Upcoming Events – Cont.

Continued from page five

**April 19**

### **Major Saver Fulfillment Begins**

Today is the first day that a rep will be at the school to begin filling orders. **Do not send orders before this day.** Remember that payment must be included before a card will be sent home.

**April 21**

### **End of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grading Period**

Make sure to log into Skyward to see your child's grades.

**April 25**

### **Last Day for Major Saver**

This is the last day for the Major Saver fundraiser. Make sure your orders are at the school early in the morning so they are here when the rep arrives.

## Student Council

The student council recently organized a Valentine "Candy-Gram" sale. Pre-orders were taken for suckers that could be delivered to a friend on the morning of Valentine's Day.

A total of over \$500 was collected from this activity. The student council decided to donate this money to the Curt Hoffman Scholarship Fund. The money raised from this one event was able to cover the scholarship for one year!

## Gold Notes

Remember that using Gold Notes is the very best way to communicate changes in your child's dismissal procedures. Never depend on just telling your child. We've had students try to stay insisting that Mom said that Grandma was picking them up, only to find out that Mom said that Grandma would be picking them up FROM HOME.

Using Gold Notes will cut down on confusion and make the dismissal procedure go smoother.

## Updates from the Staff

You already get regular updates in the form of notes and newsletters from your child's classroom teacher, but what about other staff members your child may see? In this section, you will get updates each trimester from various staff members in an effort to keep you informed about what is happening throughout the school.

### The Art Loft

Mrs. Lattimer

It's that time...Spring is here! The art classes will be doing some fun arts and crafts, including egg decorating and doing art outside in the courtyard when the weather is nicer! Other fun projects might include magnets and DIY stickers!

The art classes will keep learning about the elements of art (which are color, lines, shapes, forms, space, and texture) as well as learning about an artist for 2 or 3 or more! No doubt will we have a fun spring in art class, and I hope they all remember to bring home their artwork to show it off!

### Notes from the Music Room

Miss Godfrey

In our third trimester, I am looking forward to teaching the students about how to play different instruments.

Our kindergarten and first graders, we will be experimenting with bucket drumming and learning how to play along to a rhythm and create their own rhythms as musicians! Second grade students will be working with boomwhackers and listening to each of the different notes that each boomwhacker can play and how to change their sounds. The third grade kiddos are starting with boomwhackers. then moving on to xylophone playing. Finally, our fourth graders will start with xylophones, then will be introduced to their recorders which they will take with them to MIS!

Towards the end of the trimester we will be preparing music for an upcoming concert. We will share the date and time soon!

### The Fitness Forecast

Mrs. Davidson

It's hard to believe that we are already beginning the final trimester of the school year! We've learned so much in PE class already this year and we are looking forward to learning even more in the final months of school.

Kindergarten and first grade will be working on social and emotional behaviors, challenging ourselves with new activities and skills, and cooperative play.

Our second, third, and fourth graders will be working on volleyball/striking a ball, dribbling with some soccer, and social/emotional behaviors.

### Request from the PE Teacher

Winter isn't over yet and we still have days that are cold and may even still have snow. Many times, students will wear snow boots to school or the girls may wear fashion boots. **Just remember that on PE days they need to bring their gym shoes to change into.** Wearing improper footwear during gym can lead to serious injuries. For that reason, if students are not wearing gym shoes, it becomes necessary for them to sit out.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

### The Book Nook

Mrs. Echols



John Wood family and friends!

February was a very exciting month. Our students learned about the contributions and sacrifices African Americans made to help build America. Our students are also aware that "all" races are to be celebrated and preserved for everyone to learn and grow.

Week 3 was Career Week and Dr. Rushing gave a presentation concerning "Career Pathways." The John Wood library displayed books on various careers such as, meteorologist, scientist, computer engineer, infrastructure engineer, construction worker, carpenter, nurse/doctor, sign language interpreter, zoologist and many others. These career books can help our students discover what they would like to be after high school.

Traveling right into March, the students will be reading books and sharing stories with one another. Also, students will bring their Chromebook to earn a certificate by learning to code in Tynker (software games).

Tips for your child during Spring Break:

- Read a book while traveling in the car on vacation.
  - Read a book at night before going to sleep.
  - Call a friend or family member and share stories about the book you've read.
  - Read to your animal.
  - Read to your younger sibling.
- Remember, reading stimulates the brain, increases social skills, builds communication and literacy skills, and helps to develop concentration and the ability to focus.

# 2023-2024 Kindergarten Preregistration

Merrillville Community School Corporation will hold kindergarten registration soon. Although the dates have not yet been announced, we wanted to share this information with you so that you can be prepared.

Children who will be age 5 either on or before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible for the 2023-2024 school year.

The following is the information that will be needed when registering your child.

## Parents will need to bring the following documents to their appointments:

- ✓ Certified birth certificate (exceptions will be made for foster children-see below)
- ✓ Up to date Immunization records
- ✓ Parent/guardian current license or state ID
- ✓ Proofs of residency (see below)

If applicable, you will also need the following:

- ✓ DCS foster information
- ✓ Any and all documents that affect your child's educational placement (Example: IEP, 504, or Psychological Evaluation)
- ✓ Special Needs Transportation (SNT)
- ✓ Any legal or custodial papers

## Required Proofs of Residency

### Homeowners

**Two (2)** of the following:

- Utility bill (either NIPSCO, water, or sewer)
- Deed, Contract, or Mortgage Statement
- Lake County Tax Bill

### Pending Homeowners

Pending is defined as 30 days prior to occupancy

- Letter, on realtor letterhead, of pending purchase and projected date of move-in. Must include the name and address of purchasing family.
- Letter, on contractor letterhead, validating pending construction of home and projected move-in date. Must include the name and address of purchasing family.
- Offer to Purchase/Purchase Agreement/Contract

### Renters/Leases

**One (1)** of the following is required:

- Lease Agreement – Must include:
  - Parent/Guardian name on the agreement
  - School-age children on the agreement as tenants
  - Name and phone number of the manager/landlord
  - Beginning and ending date of the agreement
- Rent Agreement – Must include:
  - Parent/Guardian name on the agreement
  - School-age children on the agreement as tenants
  - Name and phone number of the manager/landlord
  - Beginning and ending date of the agreement

### In addition, one (1) of the following items is required

- Utility Bill (either NIPSCO, water, or sewer)
- Vehicle Registration
- TRANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) letter from the State of Indiana

***The school maintains the right to contact the landlord to confirm residency.***

### ADDENDUM (living in the home of another family or individual)

- Ross Township resident/owner completes addendum form in person in presence of school resource officer (SRO)
- Ross Township resident provides proof of residency (refer to proof of residency for homeowners, renters/leasers listed above)
- A photocopy of the resident's driver's license is to be taken and placed in the student's file along with the parent/guardian's driver's license.

In order to attend Merrillville schools, families must live within the boundaries of Ross Township, which includes Merrillville and portions of Hobart and Crown Point.

**Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who may need it.**