



**O'Neill Elementary School**  
**Mr. Jim York, Principal**  
**Mrs. Jill Brodersen, Assistant Principal**

1700 N. 4th Street  
P.O. Box 230  
O'Neill, Nebraska

Phone: (402)-336-1400 Fax: (402)-336-2651



**O'Neill Elementary Eagle Way 🦅 Be Safe 🦅 Be Respectful 🦅 Be Responsible**

August 1, 2018

O'Neill Elementary Families-

I hope this letter finds all of you doing well & enjoying your summer break! I know this summer has been busy and exciting for me and my family.

Before the school year starts, I wanted to remind everyone my philosophy on education. My philosophy is pretty simple, bring your A game to school every day, both with academics and socially. I expect students to be positive and focus on living their lives the "Eagle Way." The Eagle Way is pretty simple: *Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible.*

In order to help focus on The Eagle Way, we will continue to participate in Mission Monday, which is a program that gives students and staff a mission to focus on being a positive influence within the school. We will also finish our weeks with High-Five Friday! Each week, students will be recognized for being awesome throughout the week and earn high-fives at lunch time! We will also be adding a new award called the Soaring Eagle Award for students that are consistently doing things the Eagle way and working hard in the classroom. This award will be handed out once a quarter.

In order to help students focus on doing things the Eagle Way, we are adding a new social-emotional learning curriculum called Second Step. This curriculum was designed to help students recognize their social-emotional needs and will be a great way to have a common language across the building.

Also, we are implementing MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support) within the building this year. The focus of MTSS is to use data in order to ensure students are receiving all the services they need to succeed (whether it's academic, social, or both). This process is new, but I am excited to see it put to use!

Next, attendance is mandatory in the State of Nebraska. If your child misses 20 school days throughout the school year, he/she will be considered truant and the guardians could be prosecuted. Please keep in mind that tardies affect attendance numbers as well, so please make sure your child(ren) are at school no later than 8:00 am. If a student reaches five tardies, he/she will have an unexcused absence added to his/her record. To help along this way, you



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will receive reminder letters from the school when your child his five, ten, and fifteen days absent, along with assistance from our truancy officer, if you wish.

Academics is of utmost importance to the staff of OES and we know it is of you all, as well. With all that said, we ask that you stay on top of your children's homework and grades. We will do our best as a staff to communicate with parents and guardians regarding student grades and progress. If you ever have any questions about your child(ren)'s grades, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail the school.

Finally, included in this packet is a Family Passport. The purpose of this passport is to encourage family engagement both at home and in the community. If you and your family complete the Family Passport, you will be eligible for a family pizza on the school! I am excited to create a better OES family with all stakeholders involved. I truly appreciate all the parents and guardians do for our students and cannot wait for another great year.

I am looking forward to having another great year at OES and can't wait to see all the students on Back to School Night on **August 15th from 5:00-6:00 pm.**

Thank you!

Mr. Jim York  
Principal  
O'Neill Elementary