

explore!

Hello Parents/Guardians!



I cannot wait to see all your child is going to experience and accomplish during Explore this summer! I am so excited to meet you and your child and to see what this summer brings. My name is Tom Masterson and I look forward to being the Explore principal at Portland for Session 1. I am finishing my second year as the Assistant Principal at McGregor Elementary and Sherwood Elementary. I graduated from Missouri State University with my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 2011 and I recently graduated with my Master's Degree in Elementary Administration, also from Missouri State University. I have been married for seven years and have two kids.

Explore Session 1 will begin on Tuesday, June 5th, and will continue five days a week until Friday, June 29th. Explore Session 2 will begin on Thursday, July 5th, and will conclude on Tuesday, July 31st. We start promptly at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:20 p.m. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided during the day at Explore.

Your child will be enrolled in a class based on the grade level they will be in next school year. For more information on the class your child will be in for Explore go to the following link:

<https://www.sps.org/explore>

Transportation for Explore will be available to specific sites for eligible elementary students. Students must register by April 15 to be guaranteed bus transportation the first day of Explore. They are eligible only if they live within the designated attendance area and their residence is more than 1.5 miles from their assigned Explore site. Students may choose to attend any Explore location if they provide their own transportation. Call 417-523-0500 for transportation questions.

Boys and Girls Club will be available for a fee after school. To get your child enrolled, please call 417-862-9249.

Having good attendance is important during Explore, especially considering each session is only one month. Of course, if your child is ill, then that is an exception. Please let us know if your child will be out for a day. Your efforts in making sure your child is here everyday is very much appreciated!

Demonstrating good behavior is also an expectation during Explore. Student misbehaviors will be addressed in a proactive manner using principles of positive behavior interventions. Explore Coordinators will review instances with students having repeated inappropriate behaviors. At the Explore Coordinators' discretion, students with repeated inappropriate behavior may be dropped from the program.

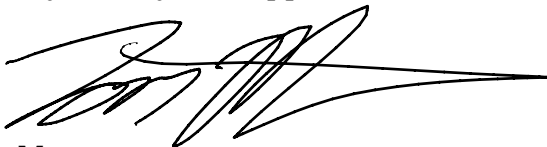
Students are encouraged to bring their leftover supplies from this past school year to Explore. Supplies your child may need include: pencils, a notebook, crayons, a folder, glue and scissors.

If your child requires medication to be taken during school hours, please contact our school nurse for the proper paperwork to be completed.

Please make plans with your child regarding how he/she will get home prior to the beginning of the school day. Keeping a constant routine helps children feel secure during the day, so we encourage a regular pattern of school-to-home transportation. Occasionally, plans must be changed. If you have an emergency and you must arrange for alternate transportation, you may call the secretary (before 2:30) at 417-523-4600 and leave a message to be delivered to your child's teacher.

I look forward to meeting each of you during Explore!

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Masterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Masterson
Explore Principal, Portland Elementary
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