Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. We are excited to welcome students to the new school year. We remain steadfast in our continued commitment to academic excellence, innovative practices, school safety, and inclusive excellence. We are proud of our students’ successes and look forward to more achievements this year.

The beginning of the year can be an exciting, celebratory time. But we must acknowledge that the current culture and climate in our nation also make the beginning of the school year a time filled with concern and fear for many.

We recognize that for many of our students, the first day of school comes with a fear of being unsafe, both physically and emotionally. We also recognize that many of our students and families can feel fear because of all of the current situations that students and families might see in their neighborhoods or on the news.

We know that these issues can directly impact many of our families. We are well aware and willing to offer support, resources, and encouragement.

We are committed to partnering with all members of our school communities to ensure a safe, healthy learning environment that welcomes each individual student, leveraging the assets they bring. We do this in service of safe, welcoming spaces (remote or in-person) for all students to learn in, for all staff to work in, and for all community members to visit.

To our Crafton families and students, we welcome you.
This year, we welcome PAWS to the 6 day Unified Arts schedule. Welcoming Ms. Sheree Lee to this position, she is so excited to integrate PAWS into the rotation. Students in K through 6 will participate in PAWS once every six days. The focus of this program is to provide social, emotional learning, character education and career readiness.

Please refer to individual classroom schedules for specific times.

Welcome back to all of the families and parents. If you want to get involved, please contact craftonelementarypta@gmail.com or on Facebook at Crafton Elementary PTA.

Please do not forget to download the Box Tops App and sign up for Apples for Students at Giant Eagle. Crafton Elementary is also part of the Amazon Smile program.

**2020-2021 PTA Officers**

President—Courtney Bonnet  
Vice President—Cara Heisler  
Secretary—Michele Anker  
Treasurer—Jen Blevins

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**GREENTREE TIMES AVAILABLE ONLINE!**  
http://www.pittsburghjuniortimes.com/
Reading Connection

-Time for a Story-

Want to spend time with your youngster, build his/her reading skills, and help him/her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud. Here are suggestions:

Read regularly
Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10-15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Bring along a book, and read to him/her during a sibling’s sports practice. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

Take turns choosing books
Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety, such as nonfiction or poetry.

Let her/him participate
Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, he/she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in the words he/she knows. Go slowly so he/she has time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. He/she will enjoy read-aloud time more if he/she plays an active role.

Be playful
You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Or substitute your youngster’s name for the main character’s name, and use family members’ names for other characters.

Note: You don’t have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it’s you.

Our PBIS kick-off assembly is on Friday, September 4th. The Josh and Gab Show provides a positive and fun experience for the students. They focus on positive thinking and bullying prevention. It is an interactive program where students can sing and dance along. For more information, please see their website at https://www.joshandgab.com.

The Josh and Gab Show has visited our schools in the past. This year, they will perform live through a Google Meet. Students are encouraged to sing and dance along.

If your child reports bullying/cyber bullying to you, please contact the school and encourage your child to report it to his/her teacher. If we do not see or hear of the bullying, it is difficult for us to intervene or follow through with either parties. Our goal is to intervene and allow both the bully and victim to understand that the teachers and staff at Crafton Elementary have zero tolerance for bullying.