



New Cougar's Guide



Everything You Need to Know About Being a Bowles Cougar

This guide was created to help new families get familiar with Bowles Elementary. It can be difficult to be in a new place- there are many new faces, places, and terms to learn. We hope you can use this reference to help guide you through the school year.

Welcome to Bowles Elementary. We know you will love it here!

Bowles PTO 2011-2012 Executive Board

Adventure Club- Rockwood School District's tuition-based out-of-school time program that is available at all of the district's elementary schools.

- The morning program starts at 6:30 a.m. and is open to children in kindergarten through 5th-grade until the start of the school day.
- During the **school day**, kindergarten students are in the program for lunch and the 1/2 day they are not in kindergarten class.
- At the **close of the school day**, the program is open to students in kindergarten through 5th-grade until 6 p.m.

For more information contact the Adventure Club office at 636-891-6790.

AR (Accelerated Reader)- a reading program that contains leveled books and matching computerized comprehension test. Students choose a book from the AR list. The student then takes a brief computerized quiz on the book that was read. The computer scores the test and awards points based on the level of the book and the number of questions answered correctly.

Book Fairs- a Scholastic book sale. The Fall Book fair is held in October in conjunction with Parent/Teacher conferences. The Spring Book fair is held in April. Our school receives a percentage of the sales.

Box Tops for Education- PTO collects the Box Tops featured on food products. Our PTO earns cash from the collection of Box Tops. Box Tops can be sent to the office any time throughout the school year.

Bowles Bucks- families have the opportunity to purchase gift cards through this program. A percentage of the sale of the gift cards goes to the PTO.

Bowles Blast- a school-wide carnival, held in May sponsored by the PTO.

Buddies- program in which 3-5th grade classes are paired with K-2nd grade classes. The paired classes meet weekly and do activities together such as academic lessons, character development, crafts, recess, movies & lunch.

Buzz Book- a student directory featuring class lists and contact information for each family at Bowles Elementary. Inclusion in the Buzz Book is optional. The PTO sells Buzz Books at Meet the Teacher Night and throughout the Fall.

CCL (Center for Creative Learning)- This campus was established in 1990 to help meet the learning needs of the most advanced students in the elementary grades. Students selected for this program attend the CCL campus one day each week. The Center supplements the regular school program by providing differentiated education opportunities for academically gifted students. All kindergarten students are screened. In proceeding grades, classroom teachers may make recommendations for students to be tested. Parents may also request testing through the counselor. Testing may occur every two years. CCL is sometimes referred to as TAG (Talented and Gifted).

Caring Cougar's Club- This PTO-sponsored club allows you to make tax deductible donations directly to Bowles Elementary. This program was designed to eliminate fundraisers which required selling door-to-door. 100% of donations go directly to the school.

Club H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Pets and Environment)- An after school club for students in 1-3 grade. Club H.O.P.E. meets once a month and participates in activities that help pets and the environment.

Cross Country- 4th and 5th grade students may participate in cross country. Practices are held before school & a district-wide cross country meet takes place in October. This is coordinated by the P.E teachers.

Curriculum Night- an event held at the beginning of the year where teachers explain classroom expectations and grade-level curriculum. This is a parent-only event.

Donuts with Dads- a PTO-sponsored event, normally held in February, where all dads are invited to come to school early and eat donuts with their kids.

Early Dismissal/Staff Development Days- Occur once a month. Students eat lunch at school and are dismissed at 12:47. Both AM and PM Kindergarten attend in the morning.

Gates Reading Test- a diagnostic tool used by teachers to determine student's reading levels. It is administered to students in grades 1-5 & taken at the beginning and the end of the year.

Fall Festival- a school-wide carnival, held in October sponsored by the PTO.

Fenton Quadrant- district term which describes the four elementary schools in Fenton (Bowles, Kellison, Stanton & Uthoff Valley), Rockwood South Middle School, and Rockwood Summit High School.

Field Day- all students spend half a day participating in fun games & activities. Parents are welcome to attend this event held in May.

Fifth Grade Celebration- an event held in May, where 5th graders and their family members have lunch & celebrate the end of their 5th grade year.

Friday Folder- a folder sent home weekly which contains student's completed work and special notes from Bowles, the district, and PTO.

MAP (Missouri Assessment Program)- MAP is a required state test for all students in grades 3-5 which is taken in the Spring. Common terms regarding MAP are: NCLB (No Child Left Behind): federal law, all students at 100% proficiency by 2014 on the MAP test & AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress): required amount of gain on MAP test each year.

Meet the Teacher Night- event held in August, prior to the first day of school, which allows students & parents to meet their teacher, visit their classroom, & drop-off school supplies.

Muffins with Moms- a PTO-sponsored event, normally held in November, where all moms are invited to come to school early and eat muffins with their kids.

New Family Welcome- event held in August, prior to Meet the Teacher Night, which allows new families to tour the school and meet the principal and existing Bowles families.

Original Works- Parents can order a variety of products featuring their child's artwork. This PTO fundraiser is done in the Spring.

PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)- as stated in their bylaws, the purposes of PTO are:

- To promote the welfare and education of children and youth eligible to attend the Rockwood School District and Bowles Elementary School in the home, school, and community.
- To support the school in improving education in ways that will adhere to administrative policy and the Rockwood School District's mission, goals, and beliefs.
- To raise funds for programs and equipment to further the education of children and youth.
- To bring about a closer relationship between the home and the school, that parents and teachers may work cooperatively in the education of children and youth.
- To foster communication, cooperation, support, information, and education within the Rockwood School District, including District staff, parents, and the general community.

Please join us at our monthly meetings.

Parent/Teacher Conferences- are held in October & March. Report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter.

Picture Days- occur in the Fall and Spring. Fall is a traditional picture taken for the yearbook and the Spring picture includes a choice of poses. Parents may purchase pictures.

Popcorn Wednesdays- a PTO-sponsored event in which volunteers pop popcorn every Wednesday morning. Bags of popcorn are \$.25 and are eaten during lunch or snack time.

Rockwood Reading Week- a district event held in March to emphasize the importance of reading. Fun events related to books and reading are planned for the students all week.

Reading Intervention- This is a structured language arts program that assists struggling readers to increase reading success across the curriculum. This program is in addition to the language arts instruction provided by the classroom teacher. Reading Intervention instruction includes phonemic awareness, word recognition skills, comprehension strategies and support in writing at each student's instruction level. There are three stages in the K-5 Reading Intervention program; each stage has approximate criteria to qualify students for the program.

Restaurant Fundraisers- throughout the year, families are encouraged to dine out at designated restaurants. A percentage of the evening's sales go back to Bowles PTO.

ROSE Award (Rockwood Outstanding Service in Education)- a prestigious district award presented to 15 individuals each year. The ROSE Award is bestowed upon individuals who show excellence of character, performance, leadership and service to the Rockwood School District.

Scouts- Informational flyers will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Girl Scout Troops form in Kindergarten (Daisies). Cub Scout Dens form in First Grade (Tigers).

Spirit Days- days identified throughout the year where special clothes may be worn, such as slipper day, hat day, etc.

SSD (Special School District)- This staff works with students with special needs and who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). An IEP is a legal document which outlines specific goals for students qualifying for SSD services.

SSR (Silent Sustained Reading)- time set aside each day in the classroom for children to read. During this time students may also take AR tests.

Special Chorus- 4th and 5th grade students may choose to participate in this chorus, which meets before school once a week, and performs special concerts throughout the year.

Stanford Testing- District test taken in November by grades 2 & 4.

Strings- A music program in which all 3rd grade students learn to play the violin. Fourth and Fifth grade students may elect to participate in strings and can select to play a violin, cello, or bass.

Track Team- 4th and 5th grade students may try out for the track team. Practices are held before school & a district-wide track meet takes place in May. This is coordinated by the P.E teachers.

Trivia Night- Play trivia, eat dinner, bid on silent auction items, and have a blast with other parents and the Bowles staff. This is a PTO-sponsored event, normally held in February.

Variety Show- Bowles students showcase their talents at this event, which is held in the Spring at the Rockwood Summit High School theater.

Websites-

Bowles Elementary:	http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/bowles
Bowles PTO:	http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/bowles/pto
Rockwood School District:	http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us

Weekly E-mails- weekly e-mail communications sent from Mrs. Vogelsang which announce important events going on at school. If you do not receive the Friday e-mails, contact the school office to be added to the list.

