

August 2021

Greetings Elementary Parents and Guardians,

We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer. We are truly very excited for the start of school! As the beginning of school is fast approaching, we wanted to take a moment to review some important information for this school year. Although we had all hoped to be moving past Covid-19 at this point, that is sadly not the case and we must abide by the Governor's Executive Orders. Please refer to the district communications from Region 14 regarding continued protocols for Covid-19 safety, much of which will remain the same this year. Masks will be required in school and we will continue the use of desk dividers. You may find additional information on guidelines here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18jBlmGnJeyqiNnHHXxjrj4NzTJmTOMif/view>

School Schedule

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7th.

Attendance

Please be sure to notify the school if your child is absent and indicate the reason. In light of Covid-19 this is especially important. In an effort to facilitate this, you may copy and paste the link to the Google form below and submit electronically. You may also call the school at (203) 266-7506, or email Mrs. Bernardi @ dbernardi@ctreg14.org.

Google Attendance/Absence Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ia215p-E8uVvgmP8dX4zG1aVZf7lwp_0XuHP44wfThE/edit?ts=61278ba6

Arrival/ Dismissal

K-5 will feature school opening at 8:15 and classes beginning at 8:25. We ask that children not be dropped off prior to 8:15 a.m. Dismissal will be at 3:15 and we will carry out an orderly and distanced arrival and dismissal procedure. Masks are required on school busses. K-5 M, T, R, F hours are 8:15-3:15. Every Wednesday school dismisses at 2:35.

Pre K Hours: Pre K 4: 9-3 p.m., Pre K 3: 9-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3 p.m. Pre K arrival and pickup will be at the Pre K doors and those parents may use the main parking lot and wait directly at those doors.

Drivers should drop their student(s) off at the "old" front entrance in the small circle as in years past in the morning. After 8:25, students should use the main entrance front door as staff will not be outdoors. Please make every effort to be on time.

Parent pick up will also continue to take place in the "old" front entrance small circle this year in a drive up manner. Please remain in your car and our SRO will direct traffic. Your patience is appreciated in the interest of a safe dismissal. Please have a photo ID ready as you pull up and your student(s) will be brought to your car. Please do not park and/or come to the school building.

Please remember handwritten notes will no longer be accepted to request a change in pickup arrangements. In an emergency, any such requests should be emailed no later than 11 a.m. to dbernardi@ctreg14.org with the subject line “Change in dismissal for student’s name on _____” clearly noting the name and date. In the interest of contact tracing and minimizing exposure, students should only ride their own bus home.

Chromebooks

Students will be receiving new Chromebooks the first week of school. They will not be able to get a new one unless their old one (with the charger) has been returned.

Other School Supplies and Belongings

Students will be able to use their lockers this year.

We will continue to spend more time outdoors to afford children the opportunity for fresh air. Please consider appropriate footwear and sunscreen for your children, and you may send a towel in for seating again this year.

Students may have a water bottle at their desk; please send one in with them and we recommend writing their name on it with a Sharpie, if possible.

Each student will again be provided with a Sterilite plastic bin for personal belongings (school supplies, Chromebook etc...)

Masks, Snack and Breaks

Students will have lunch and a 30 minute recess and each grade will have a snack break and mask breaks (both scheduled and/or as needed). Please send in a healthy snack with your child.

Each class will have designated areas on campus for outdoor mask and snack breaks, of which we plan at least one in the a.m. and one in the p.m. Should your child's teacher feel children need additional breaks, they will be able to do so. Instruction may occur outdoors as well.

The first day of in-person learning for our students will include a review of health and safety protocols in a positive and developmentally appropriate manner.

Support staff will be in classrooms, at arrival and dismissal, and available to support children.

Food Services

Hot lunch is back! There will hot and cold options. Please visit the Food Services Link below to the Region 14 website for more information. The menus should be posted shortly and will be found at:

<https://www.ctreg14.org/studentsparents/food-services/menu>

Breakfast will be sent home at the end of each school day “grab and go” for the next morning's breakfast.

Unfortunately, there will be no classroom celebrations at this time.

Bus Routes

Routes will be posted shortly on the district website and masks are required on busses. Please see below:

<https://www.ctreg14.org/studentsparents/bus-route>

Open House

At this time, we are planning an Open House on Tuesday, October 5th (change of date from 9/28) at 6 p.m. Please stay tuned for more information.

Upcoming PTO Events

August 30, 12-1 p.m. drive-through Schoolkidz Pick-Up (Kindergarten kits will also be available at orientation on 8/31)

September 15, PTO Meeting 5:30 p.m. (no children allowed)

September 17, Outdoor Hot Dog Roast 5-7 p.m. (rain date 9/20)

Most importantly, please rest assured we will go slowly, be flexible to support the needs of children, and treat everyone with grace. Our BES staff looks forward to getting back to school and engaging with students. It is our goal to maintain a happy, fun, and supportive learning environment.

Warm Regards,

Wendy Yatsenick

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