



Ockley Green Middle School

Good Evening Ockley Families, Students, and Community;

I hope that you are enjoying the final days of summer vacation and the amazing weather. I am planning to send out another round of detailed communication on Friday (8/28) and my hope with tonight's communication is to clarify a few items that I have heard feedback on. OG staff members are starting back to work tomorrow (8/27) and as a welcome kickoff we decided to have a car parade through the OG neighborhood. The idea came from several of our teacher leaders and the purpose is to build community and show our students and families that we are still here and present for them. The admin team has been hard at work during the month of August planning for the upcoming school year and coordinating with all of the district expectations. Unlike the spring, all middle schools are operating on the same Soft Start schedule (9/2 - 9/11) and the same Comprehensive Distance Learning schedule (9/14 and beyond). Because all of the middle schools are aligned this time, OG had to wait to release several key pieces of information. Over the past two weeks, you have received Family Communication on Fridays in the form of text, email, and on our Facebook pages. The communication contained the Soft Start schedule (9/2 - 9/11) that was first communicated from the district. The Soft Start schedule (9/2 - 9/11) can be found [HERE](#). You can also find more district communication [HERE](#). In today's district communication, the first sample instructional schedule was shared and that can be found [HERE](#).

I recognize that families and students have a lot of questions about what the Soft Start (9/2 - 9/11) will look like and what the Comprehensive Distance Learning schedule will look like for Ockley students (9/14 and beyond). On Friday, I am hoping that you will have most of your questions answered. The communication on Friday will include the following:

- [Soft Start Schedule \(9/2 - 9/11\)](#) and lesson overview during the Soft Start

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Portland, OR 97217
(503) 916-5660



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- 6th grade Jump Start information with a Google Meet code to access Wednesday's 6th grade class meeting, **REMINDER: 9/2 is the start for 6th grade ONLY, 9/3 ALL students will return**
- All staff Google Meet codes document
- ParentVue information so that families and students can log into Synergy to see their student's schedule
- Sample virtual planner that students will be working through during the Soft Start to stay organized
- Comprehensive Distance Learning Platforms & Tool information from the district, located [HERE](#)
- Official OG Schedule starting 9/14/20 for all students

In addition to the communication that I am sending out to families on Friday (8/28), the expectation of staff is that advisory teachers will be contacting the students in their advisory classes with information regarding the 'soft-start' period that begins next week using REMIND. As of that communication advisory classes should generally be set for all students. While advisory teachers are making those contacts we'll also be working to finalize the other components of individual student schedules. As part of that work we'll be continuing to review course-sizes which are being impacted by ongoing enrollment fluctuations. We'll also be working to optimize schedules for students receiving specific individualized educational supports. Those efforts are rooted in our commitment to working to advance educational equity. As such students may see some adjustments to their non-advisory periods prior to the start of the school year on 9/2/20.

Please also know that we've recently received multiple reports from families and students that district tools for reviewing student schedules and teacher assignments may be inaccessible or may be showing incomplete or inaccurate data. We believe this is an outcome of the ongoing data-sync effort by the district with regard to our various distance learning tools including Synergy, Google Classroom, Canvas, and Remind. That problem should be resolved when those systems are fully synced at the district level in preparation for the start of the school year. When that happens we expect to be able to communicate the success of those efforts to families in a separate communication.

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I want you all to know that we are working extremely hard to be on the same page and serve ALL students at Ockley Green during a world pandemic. We are also navigating new online platforms, district expectations, and incorporating our learning from the Spring while still trying to take care of ourselves and our families. We appreciate the feedback and we are here to listen, adapt, grow, and learn together to better serve our students. One more thing that I would like to share is that our building is closed due to a roofing construction project. The project is delayed and will not finish until at least September 10. This is continuing to delay our yearbook pickup process from last year and the supply pickup process that we will communicate at a later date once we have building access. There are many things that are outside of our control this year and we very much appreciate your grace and patience as we work through this together. I hope this message clarifies the purpose of the parade and helps you to understand the communication that you will receive on Friday. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or feedback. Thank you!

Kristina Howard
Principal, Ockley Green MS

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