

Glencoe Elementary School

Weekly Newsletter

September 3, 2021

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Glencoe Families,

We had a short but wonderful week with most of our students. Today was our first graders first day making it to their classrooms on their own and they did a wonderful job. We had a brief “Coffee Talk” on the playground for parents of our 1st graders today right after arrival. I enjoyed talking with some of our families and answering any questions they had.

On Tuesday, our last small group of Kindergarten students will have their introductory day before everyone in grades K-5 are at school on Wednesday. I will be hosting a “Coffee Talk” on the playground for our Kindergarten Families on Wednesday, September 8th after they drop their child off at the front doors. Yes, our Kindergartners will be making their way to their classrooms on Wednesday but don’t worry. We will have staff available to support them as they independently walk to their classroom.

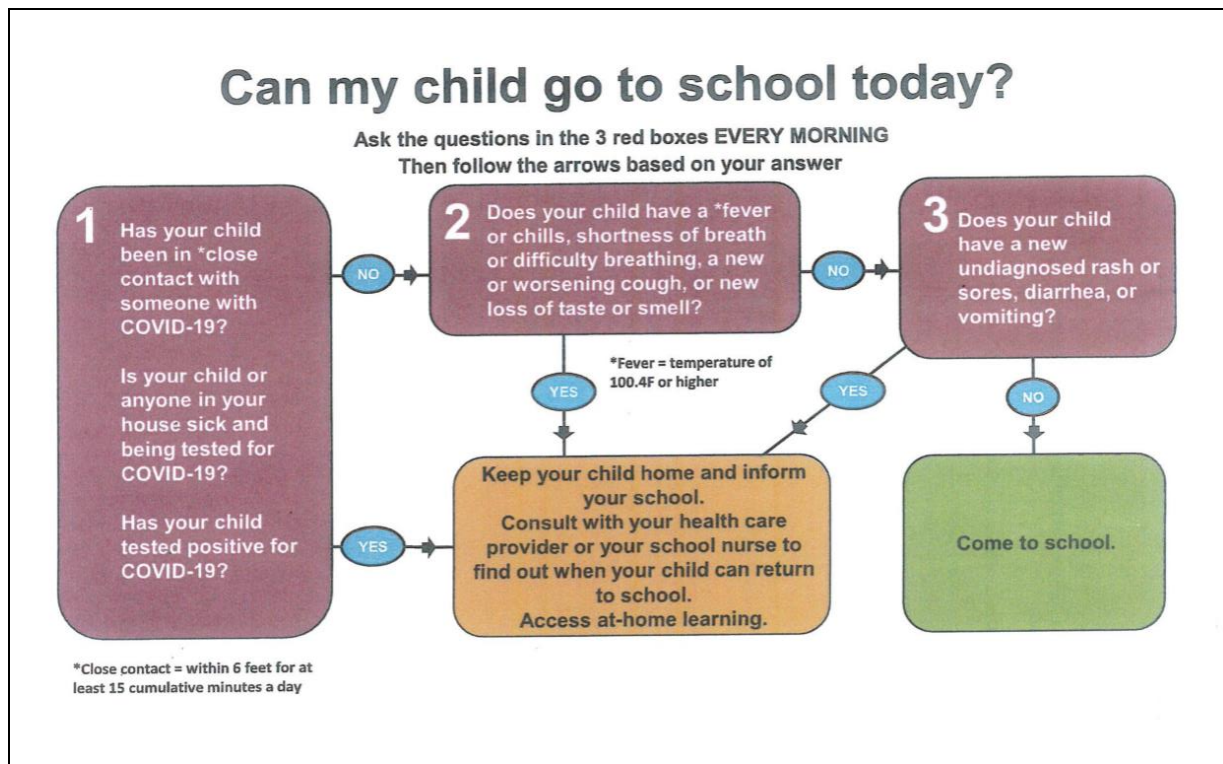
It has been wonderful having students back in the building for full days of school. Our classrooms are bustling again with energy as students are getting to know each other and their teacher, establishing their classroom community agreements, learning routines and of course, our new health/safety protocols. It has been a joy to see how happy everyone is to be back together and I am impressed with how well they are doing!

As you can imagine, we have seen a variety of masks come through our doors. There are a lot of creative patterns and colors out there. We are continuing to give gentle reminders to students about distancing, hand washing and how to effectively wear a mask. The most important thing right now is to make sure your child’s mask is well fitting. Some students have masks that are a bit too big, sag or do not fit around their chin. As you know a mask should fit snugly around the nose, mouth and chin to be most effective. If your child has a mask that is too big or too loose it will continue to slide down their little nose. If this happens (or your child’s mask breaks), we will provide them with a disposable mask for the day that has a bendable strip across the bridge of their nose to help keep it up over their nose and mouth. Your child’s teacher will most likely let you know if this is an area in which your child needs a little more practice.

Some of you have asked, “What communication can I expect to receive if there is a positive COVID case at Glencoe?” The current process is as follows: If there is a COVID-19 case identified in a PPS school, we will follow local public health requirements for contact tracing, isolating and quarantining. This will include an investigation to verify what individuals, if any, might have been within 3 feet of a confirmed case. Understanding that each case will be unique, and each exposure will determine the appropriate next steps for possible quarantining we will take our directions from the District COVID Response team. We will communicate directly with the family of the identified student and any other families whose child was exposed based on the guidelines. The school community will also receive communication that there was a positive case within the school. At this point, I have been told that due to the low numbers of students who will most likely be excluded, we will not be identifying the specific classrooms. If we share specific classrooms, it would be very easy to identify the excluded (positive case) person. Therefore, the district has made the decision to inform the school community, but not specific classrooms this year. I know this will be frustrating for some of you to hear. I want you to

know that we are implementing layers of health and safety measures to mitigate the possible exposure or spread at Glencoe.

The other thing we can do as a school community in this effort is to keep our children home when they are not feeling well. If your child presents with symptoms, please keep your child home, notify the school office and consult with your healthcare provider and/or our school nurse. If your child has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or someone in your household is being tested for COVID-19 the same guidelines apply. Close contact is considered within 6 feet for at least 15 cumulative minutes in a day. Here is a flowchart to help you decide if you should send your child to school or not.



Last but not least, I have a couple school business reminders for you, listed below:

LUNCH TIME:

- Please label your child’s lunch box and water bottles.
- It would be most convenient if your child has a water bottle in the classroom and one in their lunch box. If not, your child will just need to get in the habit of remembering to bring their water bottle to lunch.
- School lunches are free to everyone. However, if your child just wants a milk, they need to buy it- *federal guidelines*.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL:

- On these warmer days, we have noticed more people staying on campus to socialize and play on the playground. We do have an after-care program that has a permit for the playcourt, cafeteria and playground. In order to keep those cohorts safe, we are asking that you clear the playground/field shortly after dismissal.
- If you bring your dog during arrival/dismissal time, we ask that you arrange for your child to meet you on the back baseball field OR the small field on the grassy knoll out front (north east

side). I am a huge dog person myself but I have also had school experiences that did not end well with a family pet coming to school during these times.

Phew, this was a long newsletter! Thanks for reading everything and I hope you have a wonderful extended weekend. We will see you Tuesday!

Best,

Lori
Glencoe Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

WELCOME back to school friends and family!

What is the Glencoe Foundation?

The Glencoe School Foundation is the sister organization to our school's PTA. The PTA raises funds to help teachers and students with supplies, activities, events, field trips and other enriching activities. The Foundation raises funds to pay for additional staffing support that is not allowed by PTA rules. The Foundation aims to raise a net of \$80,000 over the year through the local business and family sponsorships, direct donations from our Glencoe families, and the Flop, Walk and Roll event to pay for our reading specialist, increase hours for our valuable school secretary, on-site IT support, part time math teacher and other much needed school and teaching staff.

Glencoe School Foundation, like all Local School Foundations, fall under the umbrella of The Fund for Portland Public Schools. The Fund focuses on building and accelerating the identification, cultivation, and strengthening of strategic relationships with those who will serve as investment partners in a citywide movement to create a world-class public school system. This organization's core function is to create, coordinate and facilitate public, private and philanthropic partnerships that foster equitable opportunities and benefits for PPS students.

For more information, visit their website: [The Fund for Portland Public Schools](#)

Like all Local School Foundations, Glencoe School Foundation contributes 1/3 of all funds raised, after the first \$10,000, to be redistributed to PPS schools in the form of PPS Parent Fund grants in their equity fund. Glencoe School Foundation recognized that not all schools are in a position to fundraise at the same level, and is happy to support all Portland Public Schools.

[Donate Money](#)

Consider making a sustainable monthly contribution (100% tax deductible)

Glencoe Foundation Officers:

Chair Sara Weith, glencoe.elementary.auction@gmail.com

Treasurer Sara Wright

If you would like to join the Foundation efforts to raise funds for critical staffing roles- please reach out directly to Sara at glencoe.elementary.auction@gmail.com

There are various roles that need to be filled- but first we need a team of parents and friends.

Cheers
Sara

