

Glencoe Elementary School

Weekly Newsletter

September 24, 2021

UPCOMING DATES

Date	Event	Time
Monday, 9/27	2nd Grade Back to School Night - Virtual	3:30- 4:00 OR 5:30 - 6:00
Tuesday, 9/28	Picture Day - all students 1st Grade Back to School Night - Virtual	 5:30 - 6:00 OR 6:10 - 6:40
Wednesday, 9/29	4th Grade Back to School Night - Virtual	3:30- 4:00 OR 5:30 - 6:00
Thursday, 9/30	5th Grade Back to School Night 3rd Grade Back to School Night	3:30- 4:00 OR 5:30 - 6:00

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Glencoe Families,

I hope you all have a chance to enjoy some of this lovely weather before the rain comes on Sunday. We are really enjoying eating outside in the sun and will take advantage of any dry weather we have to continue eating outside when possible.

I say this knowing that eating inside is on a lot of people's mind at this time. Many of you have probably seen information on social media and in the news about the possibility of utilizing tents for outdoor eating in PPS. I think there was even something in the news this morning saying we would all be eating outside under tents. In all transparency, there has been conversations and data gathering at the district level regarding schools that have covered areas and space to install large tent structures. What hasn't been clearly communicated through media sources is the lack of supplies, the city and fire marshall regulations, viable spaces schools have available, the impact utilizing tents would have to each school's personpower and daily schedules etc. I have to admit, when the idea was proposed I was imagining large, event style tents with walls/windows, tables underneath - like we see in some of the restaurants right now. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

It is true that the tents are large (20x30 ft), and we have space for four of them in one area that meets regulations. However, these tents are not allowed to have sides attached and replacements will not be easily accessible. Students would still be sitting on the ground during the wet months, which will not work in a slightly slanted playground. At this point, based on all of the information we have, eating outside during rainy days is not a realistic option. Instead, we will be eating inside the cafeteria. If you are interested in learning more of the details and why Glencoe will not be utilizing tents for outdoor eating, you can find our decision making table [here](#).

When eating outside is not possible we will implement protocols that allow us to keep students safe when eating inside and can minimize the risk of an outbreak or need for quarantining to the extent possible. With that in mind, Glencoe's indoor meal plan is as follows:

- We will run 3 hepa filters inside the cafeteria all day long (before students arrive and after they leave).
- All windows and doors will be open for ventilation.
- Students within the same classroom will be spaced at a minimum of 3 feet apart in assigned seats for contact tracing.
- Classroom cohorts are seated a minimum of 6 feet away from other classroom cohorts.
- We are using the stage for square footage to allow for maximum spacing between cohorts.
- All students will be seated at their tables with masks on. Only students actively eating or drinking will have their masks off. We have students who start eating right away and others that are waiting to get into the lunch line. This does stagger the number of students with masks off at one time and we have seen this outside as well.

Speaking of safety protocols, some of you have reached out with questions regarding Picture Day. Picture day is on Tuesday, September 28th. Your child should have brought home the order form last week. Please have them bring it back on Tuesday. Dorian, our picture company, has told us they do not have the proper cameras/lighting to take pictures outside. So, pictures will be taken inside.

- Students will be able to take their picture with their mask off.
- Hepa filters will be running and the exterior doors will be open for proper air flow.
- Students waiting to have their picture taken will stand with their class at the far end of the room, or outside the room, distanced with masks on. When it is your child's turn, they will step up to the camera, get positioned and then take their mask off for a quick picture.
- If this does not feel comfortable to you, you can have your child keep their mask on. Just have them tell their teacher or the photographer that they would like to keep their mask on.

We know that you send us your most precious gifts and we are doing everything we can to keep them in school, safe, supported and willing to engage in productive struggles to learn and grow in every way. I hope you are able to join your child's teacher at their virtual Back to School

Night this week. This will be a great time to learn about your child's daily experiences and ask questions that may be on your mind. I was able to join one of the Kindergarten sessions this week and it was great to see many students and families, albeit on screen. I am really looking forward to seeing even more of you at this week's Back to School Nights.

Best,

Lori Clark, Glencoe Principal

BELOW YOU WILL FIND OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOTHES NEEDED IN THE HEALTH ROOM

If you have a Kindergartner or 1st grader please send them to school with an extra pair of clothes (pants, underwear and socks) that they can keep in their locker or backpack. If students have an accident at school, we can have them change into another set of their own clothes. Having said that, we are also in desperate need of some donated clothes for our health room for students who do have an accident at school and do not have clothes to change into. We would appreciate donations for boys and girls underwear and pants (preferable stretchy pull up pants, sweat pants, leggings). They can be new or slightly used if clean, with no major stains.

HEAD PHONES for CLASSROOM USE

Our K-2 classrooms received new Chromebooks last week for classroom use. Each classroom has a 2 students:1 device ratio. Our 3-5 students will be exchanging the old devices for new ones in October. Teachers are beginning to use some of the technology we have available and will continue to do so throughout the year. If you have not already, please send your child to school with a pair of headphones that can remain at school. This is a school supply that I may have forgotten to mention at the beginning of the year.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR 'No Dogs On Campus' Policy.

On these sunny days it is great to walk your dog to Glencoe to pick up your child. So, I know it is not an easy ask to have you keep dogs off campus. I had a few questions about the thinking behind this ask so I wanted to share them with you. Aside from it being a district policy, some students are afraid of dogs, culturally some students are not comfortable around dogs and the safety of having animals around so many people at one time is not a risk we want to take. In my career as a principal, I have also experienced a dog attack during dismissal at another school. This was very unexpected between a great family dog and two kids "horsing around" like kids do. So, thank you for your understanding and support.

OFFICE COMMUNICATION:

Last but not least, as you know from last week's newsletter, we have a new school secretary. Her name is Chris Anderson (she goes by Ms. Chris to students). If you need to communicate with the office about absences, appointments, registration, contact information changes etc, please email her at canderson1@pps.net Ms. Amanda Shwetzler is no longer at Glencoe so please remove her email from your Glencoe contacts.

PTA NEWS

Interested in volunteering? There will be limited opportunities to volunteer at Glencoe this year. To volunteer you must pass a background check and be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Here is the PPS volunteer application form <https://www.pps.net/volunteer>. It takes 3-4 weeks to be approved. Also, if your background check was approved more than 3 years ago, you will need to re-submit an application form. Throughout the year the PTA will send out volunteer sign-ups via Konstella.

Mark your calendar for 7pm on October 4! All families and staff members are welcome to join us for the first PTA meeting of the year. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83260666740?pwd=MXEwaVV3ZXpiQXZ6QXJlL0tsUFdQZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 6066 6740 Passcode: 450143

Join the PTA by paying your \$15 membership fee online: <https://glencoe.memberhub.com/store>.

Please contact Mackenzie (mackenzieweintraub@gmail.com) for membership scholarships.

