



# The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

Summer Edition 6.12.2020

## Keep Up With Us



[Link to the school's Google Calendar](#)

## Upcoming Events

**6/29 & 6/30:** Student item and portfolio pick up - details coming soon

## Important Links

- [Staff Email Contact List](#)

Welcome to all of the GRCDC families who are new to the school for the 2020-2021 school year! You have now been added to our communication streams, the Remind texting app and the school's mass email list. These are our primary ways of communicating with you. You may also join the **Narwhal Facebook Page**. This page is managed by our Family Team and GRCDC admins also post important information there too.

To protect the membership of this group, there are required questions for you to answer in order to be approved to join. This newsletter, the Link Letter, is our weekly newsletter during the school year. During the summer, we typically send out a

communication at least every other week or more often, if needed. If you are concerned that we do not have the correct contact information for you, please reach out to **Mrs. Rachel**.

## Central Office Updates

- **School Next Year:** We do not yet have an answer to what school will look like when we come back in August. Please be assured that we are working hard on a plan for all contingencies. We will act in accordance to state and local guidance as to whether or not we will open full in person, fully virtually or a hybrid of both.
- **Access to items @ GRCDC:** We are planning to host student belonging pick up on June 29 & 30. The teachers will be working to organize these belongings in the next few weeks. If your student has items at the school, we will reach out to you with the date and time you are able to come to the building. We will be organizing the 5th grade portfolios to distribute at this time as well. Social distancing will be observed.
- **Social Media Clean Up:** Over the next couple of weeks, Remind and classroom social media pages will be updated. Current groups on Remind will be archived and families will receive invitations to join again. Please be on the lookout for these invites so you can make sure you are getting the latest news, especially as things change due to COVID-19.

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## Summer Learning Opportunities

The Kent County ISD (the hub that supports all school in the county) has put together a good source of learning opportunities for Kent County students. These opportunities include free courses for students, recommended websites, community partner activities, and much more. **Here is the main website** where more information will continue to be added as it become available.

**Here is a link to the flyer** for more details.

In a surprising, but welcome move, the Kent ISD announced last week that the GRASP program will be made available FREE to all Kent County students, while supplies last. This is the first time the ISD has ever offered this program for free. Some of you may have purchased GRASP materials based on our recommendation in the Link Letter. Please know that as with all things related to COVID-19, this was another developing, fluid

situation and this information was not available or ready when you were making those decisions. We will do our best to stay on top of all the opportunities for our GRCDC students!

## Connect With Us!

These surveys will continue to be monitored through the summer. Please reach out so we can support you:

- **Social Emotional Support Direct Request** - Please fill out if your child could use a one time or more regular check in with social/emotional support from school staff. This is not from a professional counselor or therapist, but rather a member of staff checking in and supporting as requested or necessary.
- **Mutual Aid Request/Offer Survey** - Take this survey if you are seeking assistance or connection or if you want to offer assistance or connection.
- If you have feedback or concerns that are not covered by the surveys above, you can fill out the **Family Communication Survey**.

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## Community Resources

### Pandemic EBT Card Information

The Michigan Department of Education has **put out this memo** that answers questions about the Pandemic EBT cards. The memo also provides a number to call in case you have questions.

**NEW:** FAP recipients are now able to purchase food items online using their EBT card, including the Pandemic EBT card

#### Important facts to know:

- Michigan is only approved for two online retailers at this time: Amazon and Walmart.
- The Amazon site is available now and is offering free delivery for orders over \$35.
- Walmart will be offering online purchasing statewide effective Friday 5/29/20.
- Clients can opt for store pickup at Walmart to avoid a delivery fee.
- SNAP benefits cannot be used for delivery fees.
- More stores will be added, but this will take some time.
- If clients have questions or concerns, they should reach out to the Customer Service phone number on the back of their EBT card (**888-678-8914**).

### Free Produce Distribution at GRCDC

**DETAILS:** Cornerstone Church has partnered with the USDA to receive food from farmers who would otherwise have crops rot due to the Covid-19 crisis. Instead, food is being made available to get it to people who can use it for free! The distribution includes boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables for anyone in our community who needs or wants it! They are generous portions of fresh strawberries, apples, onions, celery, potatoes, cucumbers, carrots, as examples.

**WHEN:** Thursdays, beginning on June 4th and throughout June on June 11, 18 and 25.

**WHERE:** Distribution will be done in the school parking lot beginning at the entrance off of Lafayette.

**Time:** We will begin distribution at @ 6pm until 7 or until the boxes received are gone.

**HOW:** There are two options. Cars will line up and drive through the parking lot to receive a box of fresh produce. We also encourage those who live near the location to come for walk-up service using a cart or wagon. We will use CDC guidelines to protect ourselves and visitors. This includes wearing masks and gloves when handling items and loading them into vehicles or carts. We ask that visitors open their trunk/hatch for speed and safety as we load boxes.

**WHO:** The boxes are intended to bless anyone in the community who can use them. (No names, addresses, or pre-registration will be necessary to receive food). We anticipate receiving approximately 200+ boxes.

### **Resource List**

**WMCAT has created a robust list of resources** available in West Michigan and beyond. Categories on this list include:

- Food/Meal Info
- Shelter/Housing Resources
- Utilities + Internet Resources
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Recursos en Español
- Links to fun and free activities

### **Online Summer Minecraft Camp**

Does your student love Minecraft or have always wanted to play? Check out this summer camp:

<https://michiganvirtual.org/students/summer/minecraft/>

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## Need Some Narwhal Gear?

**Get your Narwhal Gear anytime by visiting:  
<https://www.bymfred.co/collections/grcdc/>**

During the school year, the gear will be delivered to school at no extra charge.

A \$5 shipping fee will be charged for summer orders

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### **Children's Crisis Response**

This is a service that provides free crisis intervention service for those through age 20 who live in Kent County. The counselors can help in person or over the phone who can help to resolve behavioral or emotional crises wherever help is needed including;

- Suicide and self harm concerns
- Angry or out of control behavior
- Family conflict

Please call 616.333.1000 to get help now.

*Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center*  
616.459.0330  
grcdc.org