



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

Summer Edition 6.26.2020

Keep Up With Us



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

Upcoming Events

6/29 & 6/30: Student belongings pick up
- Families who have students with items at the school received and email on 6/24

Important Links

- [Staff Email Contact List](#)

School Reopening Information

Dear Families,

Happy Summer! We hope that you are able to get a little bit of down time with your children as the demands of Distance Learning have come to a close for now. We know that many of you have questions about how the beginning of the school year will look for students at GRCDC and would like to assure you we are hard at work determining how the new school year might look.

Governor Whitmer plans to release requirements and recommendations for reopening schools on June 30th. We want you to know that we are determining processes, supports, and flexible plans for your child's academic and social emotional support for the upcoming school year. These flexible plans will take into account guidance from the Governor and MDE, Kent

Intermediate School District, the CDC and public health information.

While we don't yet know how school will look, we are preparing for all possibilities:

Funding: Michigan schools are experiencing a budget crisis unlike any we have seen in our lifetimes. GRDC (like all public schools) must submit a balanced budget to the state by June 30. Our budget has been approved by the Board as of Wednesday night ([view on the website](#)) and we planned for the cuts to our funding to the best of our ability. Our Board has been incredibly responsible with our resources and for the last 3 years, we have made very careful budget decisions. However, if the cuts are as big as the reports are saying, all school districts will be hit hard, including us. Make sure that you let your state legislators know that you want them to protect funding for public schools, including public charters. For now, we plan to use our healthy fund balance to protect our school while a state and federal solution is found.

Plan for Reopening: Staff have been designing our Reopening Plan for the last several weeks. We have a team (called the A Team) focusing on Governance, Wellness/Social Emotional Health, Operations, and Communications and another team (called the Teacher Council) devoted totally to Instruction. The members of the A-Team are: Lisa Heyne, Sarah Cooper, Rachel Harth, Trevor Gilbert, Elly Cotton, Molly Swartzlander, James Metcalf, Melissa Lantinga, Harmony Perry, Beth Scarbrough and MiExcel Coordinator LeeAnn Moore. The members of the Teacher Council (for summer work) are: Sarah Cooper, Jacie Memmott, Andrew Kleinschmit, Jana Soverinsky, Danielle Starke, and Haley Hegarty. We are so thankful that our staff is willing to give generously of their summer vacation time to plan for a strong and safe return to school! Please know that no matter what, we will be here to provide an education based on relationships to your child.

We do not yet know the way that schooling will look by August, but we will have plans for all contingencies and communicate with you transparently as decisions are made. We commit to make the best decisions for our school community with the best information available.

Our Vision and Core Values: During this time, we have stepped back and asked ourselves: what IS GRDC? What should we use to guide our decisions? We have decided that our current vision and core values still fully express who we are and who we hope to be. Our vision states:

- **We consider relationships to be the foundation of our educational system.**
- **Our common purpose is learning for all, resulting in increased life opportunities for every student who enters our school.** We understand "school" to be our school community- the network of

relationships organized around the growth and learning of children and each other.

- **The choices that we make should always be towards the purpose of strengthening the relationships of the three subjects: child, family, teacher.**

(inspired by For an Education Based on Relationships by Loris Malaguzzi, 1993)

Many more details are to come throughout the summer, with a call to all of us to stay flexible with one another. We are who we say we are: a school based on relationships, guided by the values of potential, inspiration, connection, and equity, and we will continue to show that in all we do. If you have questions or comments, as always, email me at heynel@childdiscoverycenter.org or voicemail/text 517-206-3868.

Respectfully yours,
Lisa Heyne

Summer Care & Before and After School Care

The Grand Rapids Early Discovery Center offers school aged care, called Discovery Care, during the summer and before/after school during the school year. For more information, please follow the links below:

- [Summer Discovery Care](#)
- [Discovery Care](#)

Central Office Updates

- **20-21 Calendar:** The tentative first day of school is August 17th. This is subject to change based on directives from the State of Michigan. We hope to release our full calendar by the end of July.

Community Resources

As we shift our focus in this newsletter to Reopening in the Fall, the resource section has been moved to our website. For information about the following topics, [please follow this link](#).

- FREE Summer Learning Courses and Programs
- Request/Lend Support from/to GRCDC Survey Links
- Pandemic EBT Card Information
- Ways to Stretch Your \$\$ on Groceries this Summer
- COVID-19 Resource List

Get your Narwahl Gear anytime by visiting: <https://www.byfred.co/collections/grcdc/>

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