



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

Special REOPENING Edition 8.7.2020

Communication from the Executive Director

Hi Families!

We now have now made contact with 100% of our enrolled families and are working on class lists as we speak! We are so proud that we were able to connect with all families during this process. We have read all survey comments, responded to dozens of emails, and had many phone conversations. The way we are able to work together during this time only makes all that we do collectively for our children better!

The Final Numbers:

- **60%** of students enrolled for **hybrid**
- **40%** of students enrolled for **virtual**

In a truly amazing and unexpected turn of events, enrollment numbers in each grade level and grade band found a way of balancing out. Because of this, we are able to KEEP CLASS LISTS TOGETHER! This means that teachers will be assigned a full class list of about 24 students and that teacher will teach all the students, whether they are hybrid or virtual!

Staffing and Schedule Updates:

- The first day of school for everyone will be August 31
- The last day of school for everyone will be June 11
- EVERYONE will be in a virtual learning format on Mondays
- Hybrid students will attend school on T/TH or W/F
- If your child is in a loop year, they (1, 3, or 5) will have their same classmates and teacher whether they are Hybrid or Virtual!!!! (full disclosure: for 5 families who have 2 or more siblings in a loop or a child in

a loop and a child in K, there are class assignment conflicts. Sarah and I will be working with families one on one to address these)

- All classroom teaching staff will be present in the building 2 days per week and virtual with their class on the other days
- Students who are going into a new grade band (K, 2, 4) can expect that their child will keep this class and teacher when we are all able to return to school together in person, so we can begin building those relationships now
- Chromebooks will be available for loan (1 per family) for families who do not have a device for their children to use
- Siblings will not have the same "live" touch points during virtual days, to avoid scheduling and bandwidth issues

Student schedules and class placements are still being worked on. ***Please understand what a HUGE undertaking this, as we have to prioritize siblings in different grades attending school on the same days.*** We are working hard to take into account other factors, but with our current plan and limitations, this alone will dictate how many of the groupings will be made.

All families can expect to learn what class your child is in/which teacher they have been assigned to, the weekly schedule, and school supplies by August 17 at the latest.

A BIG and HEARTFELT shout out to all of our staff and families who have asked tough questions, shared constructive feedback and remained so flexible while helping guide Sarah and I towards what is most important. With this new staffing and class plan, we have been able to put relationships front and center and continue with growing "one GRCDC". We continue to learn. We continue to listen. We are in this together.
Sincerely yours,
Lisa Heyne

Do you have questions that you need answered about the Reopening Plan?

- Make sure you read the FAQ ([link here](#))

-Listen to the Q and A ZOOM call from last week ([link here](#))

-Email Ms. Heyne at heynel@childdiscoverycenter.org I am happy to talk you through what I know, what I don't yet know, or

even weigh in on a struggle you are facing

ALL GRCDC FAMILIES: RELEVANT REOPENING INFORMATION

HYBRID FAMILIES: Information and TO DO

- Students will be wearing masks in the classroom. We will have a scaffolded and supportive approach, but we feel this is necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please begin practicing with your child wearing masks. Practice taking it on or off and building tolerance for having it on
- Each day before in person instruction, you will be asked to screen your child for symptoms, per the recommendation of the Kent County Health Department, including taking their temperature. This might also be a good time to build a routine around that.

VIRTUAL FAMILIES: Information and TO DO

- Virtual students will work along with their whole class 3 days a week. On the days that their teachers and some classmates are in school "in person", virtual students will have live touch points with other school staff members, such as paras and Mr. Trevor

Interested in Before and After School Care?

Please read this message from Executive Director Starr Morgan and take the survey:

Hi Families!

We are trying to gauge the amount of interest in wrap-around care for the Fall in order to best support the families of the Child Discovery Center. If you think you'll need care for your school-age child either before/after on the days your child is onsite or full day on the days your child does not attend please fill out the survey. This is not registration and does not hold you to your selection. This will simply allow us to determine if there is interest and whether we have numbers that safely allows us to provide this service.

<https://forms.gle/NzfuBbgUyvBUTQm98>

Thank you so much for your time!

GRCDC Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Monday, August 10th. For information on how to join and the agenda for the meeting, [please click here](#).

Community Resources

Looking for support around summer learning or help with your grocery bill?

Please follow this link for a list of resources.

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center
616.459.0330
grcdc.org

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