



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

Special REOPENING Edition 8.14.2020

Communication from the Executive Director

Dear Families,

I am happy to share that we have completed class and teacher assignments for the 2020-2021 school year. It is such a great joy that students will be able to remain with their "loop year" teacher and classmates, whether they are hybrid or virtual. We were able to create a schedule and plan that centers on relationships and equity- which is the GRCDC way.

I cannot thank the Operations Team, A Team, Teacher Council, and staff enough for all of the hard work that has gone into our plan. There is still much to accomplish, of course, and we will continue to work around the clock for the next two weeks!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. We know there are many unanticipated details we will have to work out as we begin to walk this path together. Let's work together with race and flexibility.

Sincerely yours,
Lisa

THINGS TO NOTE:

- Your child's teacher assignment and daily schedule was emailed earlier today.

- **Please expect an email from your child's teacher next week with an introduction and a supply list.** Every child will need an individual set of school supplies and every family will need a device for virtual instruction. We ask that **every** family **Please take this survey** so that we can best support all families with supplies and technology.
- Please note that GRCDC is considered it's own school district. **All school wide communications regarding school at GRCDC will come from Rachel Harth or Lisa Heyne.** Some families have been receiving communications from GRPS. Those communications do not pertain to GRCDC.
- **The Academic Calendar has been finalized.** We have 3 different versions of this calendar depending on the learning option you chose for your child. Here are the links to the calendars:
 - **Wednesday/Friday Hybrid Calendar**
 - **Tuesday/Thursday Hybrid Calendar**
 - **100% Virtual Program Calendar**
- **All families will need to pre-order school meals every week this school year.** This will begin next Friday, August 21st. Please make plans to finish that process by Monday, August 24th.
- **Orientation this year will be completely virtual.** You will get an email with documents to sign the week of August 24th. The required new family meeting that is traditionally held in person on the first day of school will be available to you in video form to watch before the first day of school.
- **We are making special plans for our Kindergarten students on the first day of school.** Since parents will not be allowed to walk students into the building, we are giving special consideration to making this transition a smooth and happy experience for our newest learners!

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
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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>

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