

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The staff and I are excited to see so many of our students returning to in-school instruction starting on Monday, November 9th. Please take the time necessary to review the information in this letter. It contains many important details that will provide you with an understanding of what your child's day at school will be like.

School Hours: School starts at 7:45 am. Parents can drop off their student(s) between 7:30-7:45 am. Dismissal for walkers and parent pick-ups will be at 1:30 pm followed by dismissing students to busses. Please continue to use the walker signout sheet and wait outside the lobby for your student.

Busing: To ensure appropriate social distancing on the school bus, we will have multiple morning and evening bus runs. This change could result in a different pick-up or drop off time than you have experienced in the past. Our bus runs will be posted on our Facebook page before November 9th.

Breakfast: Students who eat breakfast at school will report, upon arrival, to the cafeteria. The overflow space for breakfast will be the gymnasium, which will be set up like the cafeteria, with single-seat desks spaced at a minimum of 6 feet apart. Students will be released to their homeroom as soon as they finish eating. This will help maximize our in-class instruction time. Students who select not to eat breakfast at school will report directly to their homeroom after they get dropped off or get off the bus. Don't forget, due to a generous federal grant, breakfast and lunch are currently FREE to students. Take advantage of this to help with your grocery shopping bill!

Lunch: We will conduct three lunch periods and utilize the cafeteria and the gymnasium to feed our students. This will ensure all students are greater than 6 feet apart when they are unmasked to eat.

Recess: Each class will have a designated recess time where they will go outside, weather pending. The weather is now getting colder, please have your students dressed appropriately. Students will be allowed to be active if they are at a minimum of 14 feet apart. Our playground equipment will remain off-limits.

Sanitization: We will continue to ask students to sanitize their hands upon entering the school, the school bus, or any new space in the school they are transitioning into.

Specials: Students will have specials Monday through Thursday. No virtual specials will be held on Fridays. Art, Music, and PE will be held in their respective classrooms. For in-school learners, our librarian, Mrs. Raymond will visit the students in their homerooms. Students will now be allowed to check out books on a two-week rotation. Computer class will also be held in the student's homeroom. During this time they will learn about their devices and our online learning platform Canvas.

Virtual students should use library time for silent reading or read to an adult time. Computer time should be spent learning about the device they are using and Canvas.

Each class will have one 30 minute art, music, library, and computer class per week. Pre K students will have one 30 minute PE class per week, while students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade will receive one hour of PE by having either two 30 minute classes (grades K-2) or one single one hour class (grades 3-5).

Pre K Students: Our Pre-K program will have two classrooms moving forward. Ms. Fiske and Ms. McNally will remain the teachers. For this second 8 week session, Pre-K students will be dismissed at 12:30. This adjustment to their daily schedule is a safety measure that will prevent students from having to take naps, which must be unmasked, at school.

Third Grade: Our third grade has the highest student population. To accommodate all our third-grade students returning to school we have added a new teacher. Please welcome Ms. Leah Malcom. Please watch for a letter in the mail that will notify third-grade students who they will have for a teacher moving forward. If you do not receive a letter, there has been no change for your student's teacher.

Mask Breaks: Because our class size has increased, mask breaks will no longer occur in the classroom. They will be held in the cafeteria, gymnasium, or outside. If your child is visiting with a service provider, where the number of students in the class is very low, a mask break may occur in that space.

Virtual Learner & Screen Time: As we learn more about instructing students virtually we have worked to make some adjustments to our practices. One of these adjustments is the amount of time we expect virtual students to be present online. Starting on November 9th virtual learners will only be expected to be on Zoom during direct instruction time. Time allocated for practicing new skills will no longer be on Zoom and should be monitored by the parent. Teachers will communicate schedules specific to each classroom. Please watch your student's Canvas accounts for this information. Reminder, if you selected virtual learning for the second 8-week session, your child will need to remain virtual during that timeframe.

If your child attends in-school instruction and becomes ill or needs to isolate due to COVID, attending virtually during this time can be an option. Please reach out directly to your child's teacher to make the necessary arrangements.

Home health screenings: Please continue to screen your student for symptoms of COVID at home each day before school. If they exhibit any symptoms please help ensure we can continue to educate students in person by keeping your child home. Our Facebook page contains information regarding COVID symptoms for your reference.

Granite Street staff have worked very hard preparing to have the majority of our students return to in-school learning. We have greatly appreciated the support and flexibility our parents and students have shown during this unusual time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Josh McNaughton
Granite Street School Principal