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August 9, 2022

Dear GLS Families,

Another fantastic school year is just around the corner! I am blessed to be going into my eighth year of the Principalship at Grass Lake School. I look forward to working with all of our amazing GLS students, parents and community members during the 2022-23 school year! I hope everyone had a beautiful summer! Enclosed, you will find important information about our upcoming school year at Grass Lake School!

SUPPLY DROP OFF & PARENT UNIVERSITY

Please join us on Wednesday, August 10 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for our annual Supply Drop Off Event. For the supply drop off, **all items dropped off should be in a bag labeled with students first and last name and grade level.** Families are welcome to enter the school building and look for their child's classroom. Classrooms will not be open for families to enter. Students in Pre-K through Fourth grade will have tables located and labeled outside of the classrooms to leave supplies for their teachers. Students in 5-8 grade will be assigned a locker for use throughout the school year. Lockers will be labeled, and students can begin setting up their lockers for the school year. Students in fifth and eighth grade will use lockers in the **multi-purpose room** and students in sixth and seventh grade will use the **basement lockers**. Maps will be available to help guide everyone throughout the school building as some rooms will have different uses for this school year.

In addition to hosting our annual supply drop off event, Grass Lake School will also host our first Parent University from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the gym. Our Parent University will focus on Social Media and Texting and will be conducted by the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

SHIELD TESTING (COVID-19 Screening)

For the upcoming school year, Grass Lake School will continue to provide all GLS Families with the opportunity to opt in for SHIELD testing. SHIELD testing has a sensitivity of 97% and a specificity of 99%, with very few false positives in detecting the COVID-19 virus. The process is conducted when a saliva sample is collected and sent to a laboratory for testing. Results are usually received within 24 hours. One staff member will be facilitating SHIELD testing. Collection of student/staff samples, do not require this individual to be medically trained personnel. GLS will host SHIELD Testing on Mondays and on Tuesdays following a day off of school.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

The new CDC, IDPH and ISBE guidance provides flexibility in mitigations for schools to return this Fall. It allows for school districts to use local conditions to make decisions regarding mitigations and strategies to deploy as we return to Grass Lake School. The new guidance does not mandate mask wearing for staff and students to attend school. Grass Lake School will provide the following:

- Isolation rooms with increased sanitations
- HEPA machines in classrooms to improve ventilation
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing of spaces throughout the day
- Visible signage and reminders throughout the building
- Voluntary weekly COVID SHIELD testing
- Hand sanitizing machines
- Increase the frequency of handwashing

TEST TO STAY

Grass Lake School will also offer the option for parents to opt-in for Test to Stay. This will be conducted as a Rapid Nasal Test that the district nurse will administer to interested families that elect this option for their children.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

If a child becomes ill at school, they will be assessed by the school nurse. If the child presents with COVID-19 like symptoms (i.e. sneezing, coughing, runny nose), the child will wait in the COVID Conference room until a parent is able to pick them up and take them for additional testing or if parents elected to opt-in for our Test to Stay option, students can be tested immediately by the nurse.

If a child presents as a **Positive Symptomatic** case (COVID positive with symptoms), students will need to go home for five days. Students may return to school on day 6 wearing a mask for days 6-10 if symptoms are improving.

Positive Asymptomatic case (COVID positive with no symptoms), students will go home for five days and may return to school wearing a mask for 6 to 10 days.

At this time, GLS Parents/Guardians can use an at home COVID test kit to test their child.

Children that have allergies or another medical diagnosis that present similar to COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., running nose, sneezing, coughing) should have a doctor's note dated from this school year on file. The nurse will make the final determination if the student is required to be tested further.

CLOSE CONTACTS

A close contact is defined as a person who was closer than 3 feet and has been exposed to a person with COVID for 15 minutes or more (cumulative) within a 24-hour period. Close contacts to a positive case may Test to Stay as long as they are asymptomatic. Testing will also be required the following week on Monday and Thursday since the virus can take several days to affect another individual.

SCHOOL HOURS

For the upcoming school year, Grass Lake School will provide a full day of instruction on campus. Students will be expected to be in their first period class by 7:45 a.m. and dismissal will occur at 2:45 p.m. Students can arrive on campus 15 minutes prior to the start of the school day (no earlier than 7:30 a.m. for supervision to occur). Every Wednesday will be a late start at 9:00 a.m., and students should not be dropped off prior to 8:45 a.m. when supervision will be provided. Late start Wednesdays will allow our teachers the opportunity to work on and develop professional development activities focused on our district initiatives which include Year II of Project-Based Learning, Guided Reading and Math Centers. Upon arrival, all students will enter through the gym doors. Pre-K students will enter at the front door.

5-8 GRADE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Grass Lake School welcomes Mrs. Linda Lucke, our fifth through eighth grade Enrichment Teacher. Her program will be conducted on an invite only basis for students in 5-8 grade. The program will be conducted during encore classes which is held after lunch. Students will participate in activities that will further enhance and enrich their normal daily curriculum. Parents will be notified of student selection prior to the commencement of the program. Students will be asked to participate in this program every trimester.

CHOIR

Choir will be offered before school for first Trimester on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. for interested students in grades 4-8. Information regarding choir involvement will be sent out within the first weeks of school. Choir will begin the first week of September. If you have any other questions, please contact Ms. Buehler at jbuehler@gl36.org. Band will be offered during the school day during our 5-8 grade encore period conducted after lunch.

AFTERSCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC EVENTS

All afterschool extracurricular and athletic events will begin at Grass Lake School at 3:15 p.m. When school is dismissed at 2:45 p.m., students will be supervised by teacher aides until their coaches or activity advisor is available. Students will have time for a recess and a snack break before attending. Since afterschool activities are starting later, our evening activity bus will leave school grounds at approximately 5:00 p.m.

GUIDED AFTER SCHOOL STUDY

Guided After School Study is available for all GLS Students in first through eighth grade from 3:15 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students will have time for recess and a snack break before attending. An activity bus will be available to take students home. A parent permission slip must be on file for students to attend. **Guided After School Study will begin on Tuesday, September 6.**

THIRTY MINUTES OF UNSTRUCTURED TIME

Per Illinois School Mandate, all students in kindergarten through fifth grade will receive thirty minutes of unstructured time in their school day. Students in fifth grade will receive 15 minutes of open gym and 15 minutes of recess or unstructured time during lunch. All Kindergarten through fourth grade students will receive 15 minutes of recess and 15 minutes of snack time daily to comply with this new state initiative.

NEW GLS BRAVES

Please be sure to welcome the following new employees to our Grass Lake School Team!

- Rachel Eckenstahler Nurse
- Carly Goff Special Education Teacher
- Linda Lucke Part-Time 5-8 Grade Enrichment Teacher
- Cristina Monroy Administrative Assistant to the Principal
- Christine Pawlowski Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
- Bridget Psenicka Reading Specialist
- Caryn Redman Social Worker
- Teagan Ross 4th and 5th Grade Student Teacher for the Fall Term

RETURNING BRAVES

- Haley Capek Starting the year off as our eighth-grade math and Math RTI Teacher
- Dawn Becker Teacher Aide supporting Guided Reading
- James Bowen Teacher Aide
- Anastasia McCoy SHIELD Test Coordinator/Teacher Aide

I look forward to all of our students returning to GLS on **Friday, August 19 for our first full day of school!**
Don't forget to say congratulations to Mrs. (Gillengerten) Moe, who was married over summer break!

All the best,



Mrs. Plath
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