

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents of GDS Students,

What??? More information? Yes, yes indeed!

In today's correspondence, I am going to share the plan for tonight's back to school night, next week's modified week 1 schedule, and a distribution reminder!

Since we can not meet in person for back to school night, our staff has put together some information for you. Later today you will be receiving a message and it will have all of the links for the slideshows teachers have prepared. Teachers will be available via email to answer any questions you may have. The slideshow can be viewed on a separate device, or you can wait until your student gets their Chromebook to view it. This slideshow will include a lot of information about classes, schedules, internet safety, and what is expected of students the first day of school, Sept. 1st. Advisory teachers will also be reaching out to their specific advisory students/families to schedule virtual conferences during the first week of school.

Our first week of school will be modified, here is the [schedule](#). Our goal is that each student gets to meet all of their teachers and their classmates. Students will also get to learn how the new learning management systems work, what class expectations will be, and what their schedule will look like. Students will have their classes in the mornings. In the afternoons our teachers will be scheduling family meetings with each family. Our goal is for 5th grade teachers to meet with their homeroom students' families, and for 6, 7 and 8th grade advisory teachers to meet with each of their students' families. This is our chance to learn about your student, and to answer any questions you may have. We understand that virtual learning is difficult and different, so we feel building this first connection is extremely important. You will see a sign up coming to you as early as today, if the times listed do not work, please contact your advisory teacher, or me and we will get you all set up! Teachers will provide synchronous (live) sections of each of these classes with the exception of the 5th grade related arts teachers, they may do some asynchronous video messages in the first week due to schedule conflicts.

Next week I will share our regular schedule and some specifics of that schedule. For now, you already know that all of our students will start school at 8:30 with their homerooms or advisory teachers! 5th grade ends their day at about 2:30 and 6 through 8th grade end their day at about 2:45pm.

Please remember that distribution day is this Thursday!!! Here is the [Distribution Information](#). If you can make your assigned time, we would greatly appreciate it, if you can not, we have a time slot from 5:00pm to 7:00pm where we will distribute to families who can not make their scheduled time, but we are a bit worried we are going to be very busy at that time! Please be patient, we will move as fast as possible!

I would like to close out today's correspondence by saying, our staff is working feverishly to learn how to make this a quality experience for your son/daughter(s). We are doing our best to be as prepared as possible, but we also know that we may have a glitch or two here and there in these first couple of weeks. We thank you in advance for your kindness and patience as we learn to make the very best of a new and difficult teaching and learning experience.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to call me at 608-839-8408, I will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you!

*Kris*

Kristen R. Langer, Principal