

## Principal's Message...

21 August 2018

Dear Columbia Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! There excitement in the air at the school with teachers and school employees. Our school theme this year is "Heroes Among Us." We are ready to start the new school year and to discover your super powers as we share our super powers with you.

I have some important information to share with you...

School begins at 8:45 AM tomorrow, August 22. We will meet on the playground, just east of the school. Look for your teacher. They will be easy to spot because each teacher will be wearing a super hero cape and holding up a sign with their name on it. The picture here on the right, where the giant 4-squares are painted, will be near the area where we will meet. We will do our best to



say the

Pledge of Allegiance (without a sound system).

Then the children will say goodbye to their parents and the teachers will take the children to their classrooms. Remember, school dismisses at 1:25 every day this week. Please make clear plans for how the children are to return home. If they are walking with a group, decide ahead of time where they will meet. Talk with your children about never

going to a friend's home or anywhere without you knowing about it ahead of time.

Kindergarten children and parents will not meet outside before school. They will meet their teachers directly in the classroom for an orientation and sign up for kindergarten testing. Follow the directions you received from the kindergarten teachers.

An amazing thing about our school is our tremendous parent support. Our PTA works hand in hand with school employees and provides great support for many activities that enhance student learning and what we do for the children. I encourage you to join and support our PTA. You can find more information at Back-to-School Night.

Back-to-School Night will be Thursday, August 23. Similar to last year, we will hold sessions in the classrooms according to the following schedule:

- PTA General Meeting at 5:30 p.m. & information will be available in the cafeteria throughout the evening.
- 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at 6 p.m.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade at 6:30 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade at 7:00 p.m.

Please remember to keep contact information updated at the school. Sometimes phone numbers, emails, and preferred emergency contact persons change. Please contact the school secretary right away when changes happen.

This year we will continue the 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Birthday Tables! We love to recognize student birthdays and one simple way we try to make this special is by having Birthday Tables. Students may invite a VIP (i.e. parent or relative) to come to school during their lunch time, sit at special tables on the stage, and enjoy lunch together. Usually the VIP brings a special lunch or orders ahead of time from the cafeteria. Students who are not able to have a VIP come will be encouraged to choose a friend to join them. August Birthday Tables will be on August 31.

We will do our best to keep you updated on events at the school while trying to not overwhelm you with too many communications. In addition to the classroom teacher communications, you can expect a “Principal’s Message” from me every 2-3 weeks. We also keep the school calendar from our web page updated.

We have a new school website. Current and updated calendar events may be found on our website: <https://columbia.davis.k12.ut.us/> Please be patient with us as we update and refine the information you’ll find there, but check it out. I think you will like the new look.

We have had a lot of outside construction at the school this summertime. It should be mostly completed by tomorrow morning. The project should alleviate many of the prior safety challenges at the school, but will undoubtedly create some new ones as well. We will refine our procedures as we need to. However, here is some information and photos (taken this morning) that will be helpful:



The prior entrance to the school is still the entrance. The main difference is that buses should no longer enter here. This entrance is now dedicated primarily for parent parking and student pick-up/drop-off.

The sidewalk near the entrance needed to be extended, so more concrete was poured today. We will monitor this area closely because the concrete may not be dry enough to walk on until tomorrow afternoon. Please use extreme caution when driving at the school as students may need to walk around this sidewalk.



The drop-off area functions much the same as before, but without buses it is a much longer area than before. Please do not park in the drop-off area or stop to pick up students in the drive-thru area. The stalls to the left are primarily

dedicated for parent parking. If you need to park, please use a stall and walk your children cautiously to and from your car.



Please do not drop-off or pick-up students at the exit (in front of the school office), as this will congest traffic and be unsafe. This loop now exits onto 50 West Street.



This area near the entrance, which used to be the south playground area, is now primarily dedicated for parent parking. Please don't use this area for dropping off or picking up students as we want as few cars entering or exiting this areas as possible during the beginning and end of the school day. We will have a school employee helping to monitor the safety of this area. Please be courteous and obedient. Also,

if you park here, please walk to the main school entrance as these closer doors will remain locked during school hours and students will be trained to ignore strangers and adults who do not wear an office-provided ID badge.



We require all students to walk bicycles, scooters, etc., when they arrive on school property. If coming from this direction, students will walk their bicycles, scooters, etc.



along the sidewalk to the bicycle racks. The bicycle racks are currently located next to the big toy on the southeast side of the playground. Again, students must walk bicycles, scooters, etc. on school grounds.

Students who walk and live



west of the school may cross at the same crosswalk with the city crossing guard.



However, when on school property, they will no longer need to be crossed in front of the office because cars will no longer drive there.

This area, pictured to the right, used to be the exit. It is now the entrance only to an area dedicated for school employee parking and bus pick-up/drop-off. We ask that parents avoid using this area as a



pick-up/drop-off area. Please also avoid using this area for parking, unless the parent parking area is full.



School buses will now load and unload in this area, which is north of the portable classrooms, on the northeast side of campus. Cars will not be able to exit when buses are present.

We will have an increased focus on student safety and strangers this year. All adults who are in the school during school hours are required to check in at the office. School employees are required to direct adults without ID badges to the school office.

Finally, students are encouraged to bring a plastic water bottle with a closable lid to school. They will be permitted to keep this with them at their desks so long as they practice being reliable.

I hope this message has answered some of your questions or concerns. We are focused on our three school rules, to be safe, kind, and reliable. Please review the information in this message with your children and please be supportive by encouraging your children through your example.

This is going to be a “SUPER” school year!

Mr. Denhalter