

Greetings Elementary Parents and Guardians,

As the start of school is fast approaching, we wanted to take a moment to review some important information for this school year:

### School Schedule

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8th. As a reminder, school is in session Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There is no in person school on Wednesdays; however, the first week there will be school on Weds. 9/9 due to having Labor Day off.

### Arrival/ Dismissal \*PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

- K-5 will be on a one-hour delay with school opening at 9:15 and classes beginning at 9:25. **We ask that children not be dropped off prior to 9:15 a.m.** Dismissal will be at 3:15 and we will carry out an orderly and distanced arrival and dismissal procedure. Buses will disembark one at a time at the front door. For dismissal, students will remain in their classes and seats until their bus number is called, at which time we will similarly load one bus at a time. We ask for your patience, as this process will be slower than usual out of an abundance of caution to remain as distanced as possible.
- Pre-K Hours: Pre-K4: 10-2:55 p.m., Pre-K3: 10-11:55 a.m. or 1-2:55 p.m. Pre-K arrival and pickup will be at the Pre-K doors and those parents may use the main parking lot and wait directly at those doors.
- **Drivers should drop their student(s) off at the “old” front entrance in the small circle as in years past in the morning.** After 9:25, students should use the main entrance front door, as staff will not be outdoors. Please make every effort to be on time.
- **Parent pick up will also take place in the “old” front entrance small circle this year in a drive up manner.** Please line up on Harrison Circle so as not to obstruct the main road as you wait to pull around. Please remain in your car and our SRO will help direct traffic. **Please have a photo ID ready as you pull up and your student(s) will be brought to your car.** They will be lined up and waiting outdoors under the portico. Please do not park and/or come to the school building in the interest of social distancing. We also anticipate a larger number of drivers and it is important to keep our front area safe for children and our parking lot flowing.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building. If you do need to come to school we will ask that you remain in our vestibule (benches have been placed there), our new designated waiting area. Appointments can be made by calling Mrs. Bernardi @ 203-266-7506.
- Handwritten notes will no longer be accepted to request a change in pickup arrangements. In an emergency, any such requests should be emailed no later than 11 a.m. to [dbernardi@ctreg14.org](mailto:dbernardi@ctreg14.org) with the subject line “**Change in dismissal for student on \_\_\_\_\_**” clearly noting the date. In the interest of contact tracing, minimizing exposure, and the safety of your children, students should only ride their own bus home. As a reminder, at this time there will be no after school activities. School will close promptly at 4 for disinfection purposes.

## School Supplies and Belongings

- In terms of belongings, we ask that you limit items students bring to school. We will not be using lockers at this time.
- All students should wear **sneakers** to school daily, as we will be outdoors a great deal. Please also consider a rain slicker.
- If you would like to send a towel or something to sit on outdoors, please send that along.
- As students will be outdoors, you may want to apply sunscreen to them before they come to school.
- Students may have a water bottle at their desk; please send one in with them and we recommend writing their name on it with a Sharpie, if possible.
- Each student will be provided with a Sterilite plastic bin for personal belongings (school supplies, Chromebook, etc...)
- Please ensure your child's Chromebook is charged each evening, as Chromebook charging stations will not be available.

## Masks, Snack and Breaks

- Students will have lunch and recess exclusively with their grade, which will result in a longer span of lunch waves and may result in some having an early lunch and some later lunch. With that in mind, each grade will have a snack break to offset their lunch period and ensure that children do not go long periods without food. Please send in a healthy snack with your child that they can easily open themselves, such as something in a zip lock bag and/or practice opening their snacks.
- Each class will have designated areas on campus for outdoor mask and snack breaks, of which we plan at least one in the a.m. and one in the p.m. Should your child's teacher feel children need additional breaks, they will be able to do so. Instruction may occur outdoors as well. Children will be provided with mask lanyards to help them keep track of their mask. As these are in short supply, we will ask them to place their lanyards in their bin each day at the conclusion of school.
- The first day of in-person learning for our students will include training on health and safety protocols in a positive and developmentally appropriate manner.
- Support staff will be in classrooms, at arrival and dismissal, and available to support children who may experience any difficulty during the day.

## School Lunch

- Lunch is available for \$2.95. Please visit the Food Services Link below to the Region 14 website for directions for online prepayments and more information.  
<https://www.ctreg14.org/schools/food-services>

## **Bus Routes**

- Routes will be posted on the district website, please see below:  
<https://www.ctreg14.org/schools/bus-routes>

## **Open House**

- At this time, we are planning a virtual Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 6 p.m. Please stay tuned for more information.

Most importantly, please rest assured we will go slowly, be flexible to support the needs of children, and treat everyone with grace. Our BES staff and I look forward to getting back to school and engaging with students, something we have all truly missed. It is our goal to maintain a happy, fun, and supportive learning environment in spite of current restrictions. Events that cannot take place this fall will be moved to spring where possible to preserve traditional events. Please see the attached document “Growing Bethlehem” for some exciting news!

Warm Regards,

**Wendy**

Wendy Yatsenick  
Principal