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Columbia Elementary Principal's Message 6 August 2021,

Hello Columbia Family,

It is exciting to have the new school year approaching. Here are the 6 things you need to know right now about Columbia Elementary. Our school theme this year is: Be the One!

1. Look for an email from classroom teachers this afternoon.
  - a. Classroom Assignments may also be accessed by parents through their MyDSD Guardian account. This is the same place where parents may pay for lunch and view grades. If you do not have a guardian account yet (parents attending school for the first time will most likely not have one), then please click on the following link for information on how to create one: <https://www.davis.k12.ut.us/departments/technology-services/information-systems/mydsd-videos>
  - b. Please keep in mind that many factors, such as students' academic, social, and emotional needs, as well as parent input/requests, have been carefully considered by teachers, faculty, and administrators over the past 6 months in creating the class lists. Our goal is to balance academic, behavioral, and emotional needs and place students where we feel they will be most successful. With that in mind, we realize not every child will be put in the class you were hoping for. If this happens, please do not immediately contact the school requesting a change. Give your child and yourself time to adjust to the class placement. Class assignment changes are very hard to make. We have qualified and skilled teachers at Columbia Elementary who are excited to meet their new students. They have been working throughout the summer and have attended professional development courses to be ready for their new students. You children will be in great hands with any of our teachers.
2. We are requesting a \$20 donation (or any amount you feel you would like to offer) for each student. Your donation will directly help in the class and grade-level for each child you donate for. This donation will pay for entry fees and expenses for activities on field trips, additional teacher-decided classroom supplies, and for items that may be needed for activities such as for costumes for grade-level performances. This donation may also be made from your parent MyDSD Guardian account. Please know that while we may ask for donations (either monetary or in-kind), donations are never required. Students will not be identified or treated differently whether donations are offered or not.
3. Monday, August 23, is the first day of school for students in grades 1-6. School begins at 8:45 A.M. and on this first day we will all meet on the playground near the 4-Square courts. The teachers will be holding up a sign with their name on it. Please find and stand by your teacher. We will recite The Pledge of Allegiance together and then teachers will walk with their students to their classroom. School will normally dismiss at 3:25, but **ON THE FIRST DAY AND ON EVERY FRIDAY STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 1:25.**
  - a. Kindergarten: Please look for instructions from the classroom teachers. Kindergarten students are on a different schedule during the first week and will actually begin attending regularly on Monday, August 30.

4. Back-To-School Night will be on Thursday, August 26 for grades 1-6. Please attend any of the 3 class sessions that are most convenient for you.
  - a. 6:00 1st Classroom Session
  - 6:20 End Classroom Session
  - 6:30 General Session, Principal Welcome, Introduce Faculty, Safety Updates at the School, PTA Welcome
  - 6:55 2nd Classroom Session
  - 7:15 End 2nd Session
  - 7:20 3rd Classroom Session
  - 7:40 End Back to School Night
5. If you may be interested in serving on the Columbia Elementary School Community Council (SCC), please let Dr. Denhalter know [ddenhalter@dmail.net](mailto:ddenhalter@dmail.net). The SCC meets almost monthly and provides collaborative input in approving the School Improvement plan and other items. If necessary, we plan to hold elections during the Back-to-School night or Please check out this page if you'd like more information: <https://columbia.davis.k12.ut.us/school-information/community-council>
6. Some of you may be interested in current COVID updates. In a nutshell, masks will be optional. Many sanitizing procedures will remain in place. We will continue to have a Covid Assistant and contact tracing will happen if it is necessary. I will continue to send a letter to parents whenever there is a new COVID case at the school. We expect school will function pretty close to how it would normally, with field trips, school choir, school musical, assemblies, and other activities.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

Mondays-Fridays	9am – 3pm	School Office Open	
Friday, August 20	9 – 11am	Hope Squad Retreat & Kick Off	Gym
Monday, August 23		First Day of School, Early 1:25 Dismissal Kindergarten Orientation	
24-27 August		Kindergarten Testing by Appointment (KEEP) -No School for Kindergarteners	
Thursday, August 26	6 – 7:40pm	Back to School Night (grades 1-6)	
Monday, August 30		Kindergarten Schedule Begins Normally	
Monday, August 30	3:45 – 4:45pm	Musical Parent Meeting	