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Columbia Elementary Principal's Message 20 August 2021,

Hello Columbia Family,

We're excited for school to start on Monday! It'll be fun to have all the students back.

1. As a reminder, this 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 names 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 be dismissed at 3:25, but ON THE FIRST DAY AND ON EVERY FRIDAY, STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 1:25.
  - a. Please decide ahead of time how the children will go home. Make plans prior to coming to school so students will know where to meet, to go straight home, and parent directions. Students should be taught to not change plans without letting their parents know (They should not go to a friend's home without parents knowing).
2. We decided to change our plans for Back-To-School Night. Instead of coming to the school in person, teachers will send recorded messages to families after school on Thursday, August 26 for grades 1-6. If you have any questions or would like to meet in person, please contact your child's teacher to coordinate a visit.
3. Great news! School meals will be free of charge this school year.
4. We are hoping for great support in our \$20 donation (or any amount you feel you would like to offer) request 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 items that may be needed for activities such as 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.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

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 Information sent home after school (
Monday, August 30	Kindergarten Schedule Begins Normally
Monday, August 30 3:45 – 4:45pm	Parent Meeting about the School Musical
Monday, September 6	No School -Labor Day