



Parent News from Armstrong Elementary

Main: 651-425-4100

Attendance: 651-425-4106

Website: aes.sowashco.org

School hours: 8:40 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

August 12, 2021

From the Principal

Armstrong Families,

I am excited to start the 2021-2022 school year! Last year was an interesting year with many challenges. I was impressed several times throughout the year with the resilience and positive energy from Armstrong students and families. Thankfully, as we are planning the start of this year, we do not have nearly the number of unknown challenges and issues that need to be resolved. There are, however, a couple COVID-19-related accommodations that will remain in place to start the year. Following is a list of updates for parents and students.

- ISD 833 will **require face coverings for all people in a school setting (age 2 and above through grade 8)** including staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status beginning Aug. 23. We will continue to monitor the latest health information with expectations to phase out mask requirements.
- Adjustments have been made to the seating arrangements for students while eating in the cafeteria.
- Visitors to the building and volunteers will be limited again to start the school year.
- ISD 833 is discouraging any large group gatherings. For this reason, **we will not have the traditional open house at Armstrong**. Instead, parents and students will have an opportunity to connect with their teachers and see the classrooms during the scheduled assessment times. Please remember that students and parents will be required to wear masks during these scheduled assessment visits. Please see the information below for more details on signing up for assessments.
- **Before and after school pick-up and drop-off procedures will be the same procedures we ended last year with.** Staff will be in the front of the school to direct traffic the first several days. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work to get everyone into an efficient routine.

I will continue to update parents and families as new information is available. Feel free to email me or call the main office with any questions.

See you soon!
Andrew Caflisch
AES Principal

Fall Assessments

Fall assessments will take place at Armstrong Elementary on August 23 & 24, 2021 by appointment only. Classroom teachers and intervention teachers are looking forward to meeting with each student in their class or on their caseload for individual, one-on-one assessment times.

****Please note: PreK students are NOT doing assessment testing.****

When are the assessments?

- **Kindergarten & 1st-5th Grades:** August 23rd and August 24th
- **All students** will have 30 minute assessment blocks.

What should I do when I receive the email?

You do not need to do anything today. Please keep an eye out for the email you will receive next week with the name of your child's teacher AND information about signing your child up for an assessment time. Once you receive the email, please schedule your child's assessment time using the link provided.

What if it is impossible for us to schedule an assessment time on the dates provided?

We are hoping to meet with every student before their first day of school. We understand there may be a few students who cannot make the scheduled assessment days. It is not ideal, but your child will have their individual assessment completed after their first day of school.

What do I do when my child is meeting with the teacher? The media center will be open for parents to wait during their child's assessment time.

Who do I contact if I have questions or have trouble scheduling the assessment time? Since the teachers do not report until August 21st, please contact the Armstrong Elementary Office Coordinator (Anne Henseler) if you have any questions at ahensele@sowashco.org or (651)-425-4101.

Skoolie Bus – TODAY – Thursday, August 12

Community Education would like to invite you to the last **Armstrong Skoolie Event, August 12 from 5-6:30pm** for their Back-to-School celebration!

They will be handing out backpacks with supplies as well as the usual free food, fun and produce **PLUS** a bounce house, face painting and even live theater, along with the Skoolie Bus Little Library. The Washington County vaccine trailer will also be there. Come join the fun!!

Supply Lists

School supply lists are available on the Armstrong website at <https://aes.sowashco.org/>. Local businesses have been sent the lists to post for customers. If you would like to get a copy electronically, please feel free to email Anne at ahensele@sowashco.org or stop by the Armstrong office to get a copy.

****Pre-K students will get a supply list from their classroom teacher.**

Device Protection Plan

SoWashCo Schools is offering families the option of purchasing a device protection plan to protect district-issued devices from accidental damage from fire, flood, natural disasters, or power surges; and theft (with a filed police report).

The cost for the optional plan is \$20 annually per device. Families who qualify for federal educational benefits, such as [free and reduced-price meals](#), will also be eligible for reduced pricing (\$10 annually per device) or free coverage. Families can sign up and pay for the device protection plan through the SmartSchoolK12 website.

- [Learn more about the device protection plan](#)
- [Instructions for paying fees through SmartSchoolK12](#)

Please note that families who waive the device protection plan will be responsible for the full cost of repair or replacement of the device. If you have any issues signing up and paying for the device protection plan, please contact fees@sowashco.org.

Upcoming Events

- **Monday, August 23, 2021** – Assessments, by appt only
- **Tuesday, August 24, 2021** – Assessments, by appt only
- **Tuesday, August 31, 2021** – **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- **Friday, September 3, 2021** – **NO SCHOOL**
- **Monday, September 6, 2021** – **NO SCHOOL**
- **Tuesday, September 7, 2021** – **First day of school for PreK**
- **Tuesday, September 14, 2021** – PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Armstrong Media Center
- **Wednesday, September 22, 2021** – Rocket Run
- **Thursday, September 23, 2021** – Fall Picture Day