

August 11, 2023

Dear Gladwyne Families,

We are excited to welcome back our students for the 2023-24 school year! This letter will highlight some important details that you will need to know as our students prepare to return to school.

Schedule:

1st Day of School for Grades 1-4 - Tuesday, September 5, 2023

1st Day of School for Kindergarten - Thursday, September 7, 2023

Kindergarten: AM Session 9:00 AM - 11:50 AM PM Session 12:45 PM - 3:35 PM

Grades 1 - 4: 9:00 AM - 3:35 PM

Kindergarten Schedule Details: AM Kindergarten dismissal begins at 11:45 AM. All AM K dismissals will occur from the small bus circle. If your K student will be riding the school bus, there must be an adult at the bus stop, or your child cannot be dropped off.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

- Thursday, Aug 31 (by invitation only sent out early next week)
 - 9:00AM-10:00AM - Kindergarten AM Sneak Peek
 - 10:00AM-10:30AM - Autistic Support Program Sneak Peek
 - 10:30AM-11:30AM - Kindergarten PM Sneak Peek
 - 1:00PM-2:00PM - 1st grade Sneak Peek
 - 2:00PM-3:00PM - New Student Orientation (grades 2-4)

- Tuesday, Sept 5 and Wednesday, Sept 6
 - Kindergarten Orientation Zoom 1:1 calls w/teacher throughout the day

- Thursday, Sept 7 - Back to School Picnic
 - 4:30 - 6:30 PM (back field)
 - RAIN DATE Tuesday, Sept 12 (same time and place)

- Thursday, Sept 14 - Open House
 - 6:00-6:45 PM Grades K, 1st and 4th
 - 7:15-8:00 PM Grades 2nd and 3rd

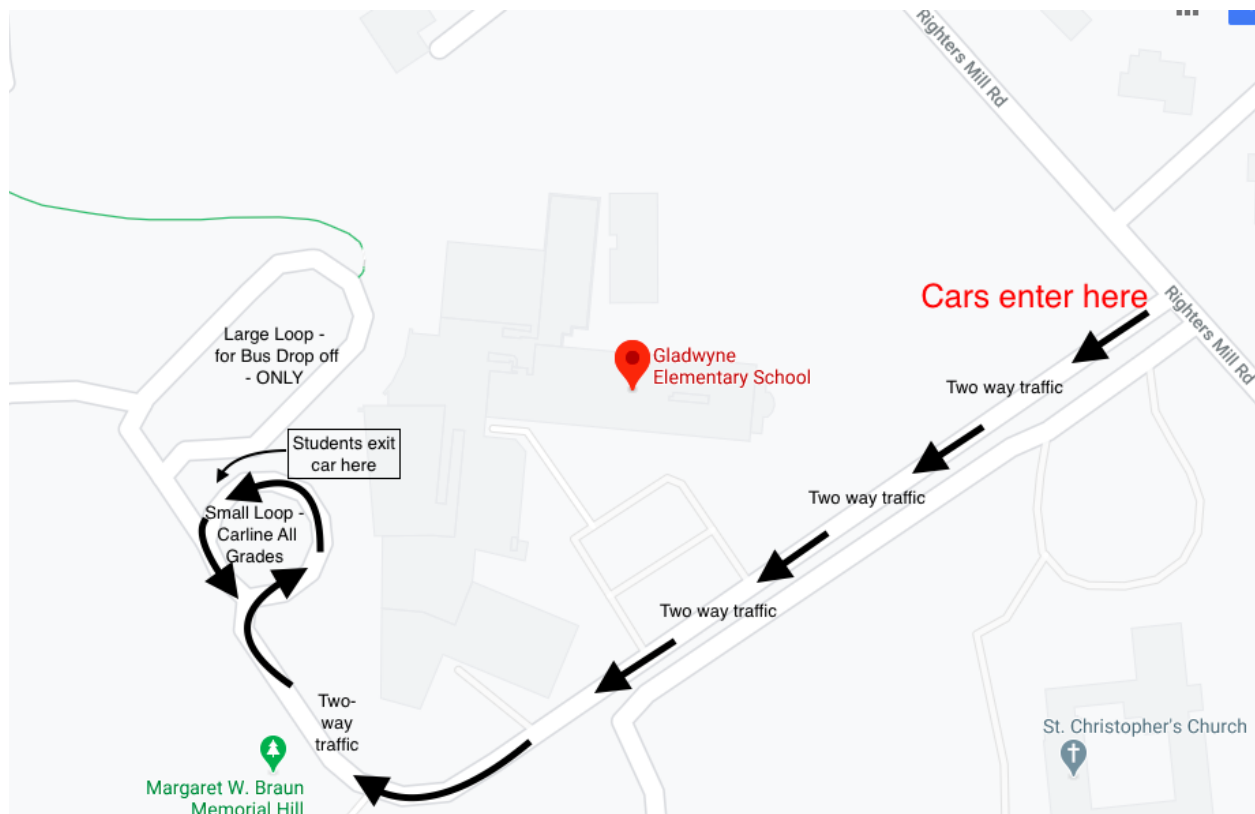
Homeroom Assignments: Families will have access to homeroom assignments via the PowerSchool Parent Portal beginning on Friday, August 25th in the early evening hours.

Parent Portal/PowerSchool: This is where you will access homeroom teacher assignments, transportation information about bus route/stop location/time, report cards, and also update your emergency contact information.

School Supply List: School supplies can be located on the [Gladwyne Website page](#)

Arrival:

- If driving or walking, students can be dropped off at the school beginning at **8:45 AM** or 12:45 PM for PM Kindergarten. You may see students exiting buses prior to 8:45 AM; however, please do not have your children exit a car or walk to the school at that time. There is limited supervision before 8:45 AM and we want to be sure that every student is properly supervised upon arrival.
- Please review the map for details on the entrances for each grade level as well as the flow of traffic for the carline.
- If your child needs more time to exit the vehicle or needs assistance with their seat belt/car seat, please use the township parking lot and the walking path to the school.



Dismissal:

- Please inform your child's teacher of their dismissal plan. Establish a consistent dismissal plan for your child. This is best for your child and the classroom environment.

Carline Reminders:

- Parents will enter the school campus from Righters Mill Road and proceed to the small bus loop near the K/1 entrance for drop-off and pick-up.
- Please do not get out of your vehicle.

- During arrival children should be ready to unload on the right-hand side of your vehicle when you pull up. During dismissal as your vehicle approaches the pick-up location, staff will radio for your child(ren) to exit the building. Please continue to pull your car forward in the circle so that students can enter the car towards the end of the circle.
- All students will receive a carline pick up card on the first day of school.

Student Pick up/Walkers Reminders:

- Families may pick up from the main entrance as well. Be sure to bring a paper with your child(ren)'s names and teacher on it.

Bus Transportation:

- Your child's bus number and pick up/drop off information will be available for families to view on the Parent Portal on Friday, August 25th in the early evening hours.

Lunch/Recess for Grades 1-4:

- Breakfast will continue to be free for all students during the 23-24 school year.
- Lunch, and snacks are available for purchase in the school cafeteria. Money can be added to your child's account by using this [site](#).
- To apply for free and reduced lunch, please visit this [site](#). Additional information regarding the Free/Reduced Program is also available at that site. Our counselors can assist with any questions.

Snack:

- Please pack a snack for your child daily.

Electronic Devices - iPads (Grades K/1) and Chromebooks (Grades 2-4):

- All students will be provided an electronic device to use throughout the school year; however, families must complete the Acceptable Use Policy form (AUP) on the Parent Portal so that students can use technology at school.
- All electronic devices will remain at school.

Before/After childcare:

- [Right At School](#) provides before and after school childcare. If you are interested in this program, please reach out to the director, Mario Lawrence mario.lawrence@rightatschool.com or 484-684-4404.

Home and School Association:

- The Home and School Association serves as a liaison between the parents, children and teachers of Gladwyne School. To learn more, please visit their website [here](#).

Staff Changes:

- Ms. Liz Friedman has returned to Kindergarten
- Congratulations to Mrs. Mary McNulty who was just hired as a Kindergarten teacher. Many families already know Mrs. McNulty as a guest teacher in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades over the past two years.
- Congratulations to Jessica Bolter who wed over the summer. She is now Mrs. Jessica Fynes. Mrs. Fynes will be teaching 2nd grade.
- Mrs. Jenn Gilbert will be teaching 3rd grade.
- Mr. Tom Kuestner has transferred to Black Rock Middle School

I am thrilled to introduce and welcome our new Assistant Principal, Christine Eagles to the Gladwyne Elementary School team. She has been an educator for the past 17 years with experience at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Avon Grove, West Chester Area, Coatesville Area School Districts. She has a doctorate in Administrative Leadership, a Masters in Special Education, and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Mathematics. Her most recent administrative experience has been as a Building Principal, Assistant Principal and Supervisor of Equity, ELD and World Languages. Dr. Eagles looks forward to meeting our Gladwyne families.

We hope your children are as excited to return as we are to welcome them. If your child is feeling anxious about returning, sharing some of these details with them ahead of time may help to ease their transition. As always, our counselors are available to support students as needed. Ms. Karen Brandenburger Brandek@lmsd.org is the counselor for Ms. Mancini and Ms. Friedman's Kindergarten classes as well as grades 1 and 2. Mrs. Deborah Wilson-Leslie WilsonD@lmsd.org is the counselor for Ms. Habel and Ms. McNulty's Kindergarten class as well as grades 3 and 4.

Looking forward to another wonderful school year!

Veronica A. Ellers
Principal