

# Explorer Family Connection

Robert Gray Elementary School

## School Update for September 10, 2025

Hello Explorer Families,  
Welcome back to school! It has been a great start and I'm excited to welcome our new and returning families for another year of learning.

Our annual Fall Fundraiser, sponsored by our PTO, is a tradition at Robert Gray and funds our PTO budget for the year. Our kickoff assembly was Monday and students have brought info home.

Thank you for supporting our school by supporting our PTO in any way you are able!



One of my favorite things to share are photos from around school! I know it can be hard to get details out of your students when they get home from school - and hope these will serve as inspired conversation starters with your child!

Please take a look at our drop off and pick up system (below) - especially noting how parents enter the parking lot after school to pick up students. We will have extra adults out at dismissal to help show parents how the system work and appreciate your cooperation as we orient our new families to our procedures.

The "Share Your Story" button below as an easy way for families to share "shout outs" or any example of our staff or school helping your family or student feel welcome and successful this year. We love hearing from our families and I will be sure to pass your input along to specific staff! Please remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns that I can help with - please get in touch with the office. I'm always happy to talk with our families.

I'd also like to ask all families to log into Skyward and update your contact info for yourself as parents/guardians. This includes emergency contacts and your preferred phone numbers for getting in touch with you during the school day. We must be able to reach someone and keeping your info updated helps us stay in touch with you! If you have trouble accessing skyward, please check with the school office. [Here's a link to get you started!](#)

I'm so grateful to start my 5th year as Principal at Robert Gray with your children and our wonderful staff.

At Robert Gray we are a **T.E.A.M.** - because **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore!

Warmly,

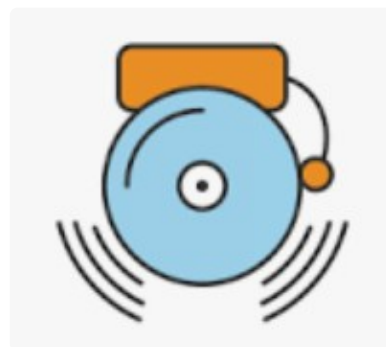
Mrs. Wall, Principal

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## Morning Drop Off & After School Pick Up

### Important Update for this year...

Drop off at school (including breakfast) begins at 8:40 this year. It is important that students do not arrive at school before 8:40 (unless waiting with a parent/guardian) as we do not have supervision and it creates a safety concern. For walkers/bike riders; we are asking some students who are arriving early to wait and leave their home a few minutes later! Safety is our top priority - so we appreciate your support and cooperation. Classrooms open at 8:55am, and the school day begins (tardy bell rings) at 9:00am.



**For after school pickup** [Click here](#) to see the arial map of how dismissal pick up works.

- If you are picking up your child in the car line, enter the line from Ohio street driving west. Vehicles will not be allowed to "cut the line" by driving straight across the 3-way stop or entering the line from the east (turning left into the school at the stop sign).
- If your child needs help getting buckled up (especially our younger students) please park in the lower lot and walk up to meet them. Parents should not exit their vehicle in the curbside pickup. We need to keep the line moving in order to not block the 3-way intersection by the entrance to campus.

Thank you for your help keeping students and staff safe during our busy start and end of the school day!

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### Share Your Story!

If you have something positive to share about Robert Gray or want to give a shout out to a staff member - please click Share Your Story above. We want to hear your stories and examples of how your student or family feel successful at Robert Gray.

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## Upcoming Events

**Sept 8** - Fall Fundraiser Kickoff at School

**Sept 18** - Red/Pink Spirit Day ♥

**Sept 25** - Yellow Day ♥♥

**Oct 9** - Blue Day ♥

**Oct 10** - **State Inservice Day (No School)**

**Oct 15** - 📷 School Picture Day 📷

**Oct 16** - Purple Day ♥

**Oct 22** - Orange (Unity) Day ♥

**Nov 6** - Brown Day ♥

**Nov 13** - Black/White Day ♥♥

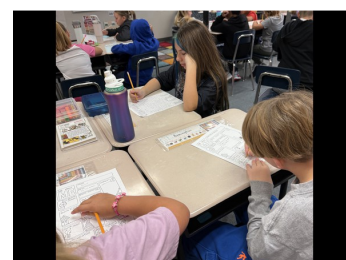
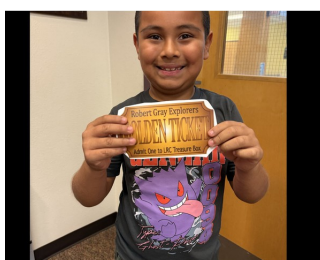
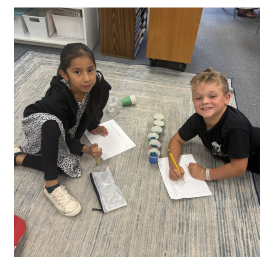


**Every Wednesday is "Robert Gray Spirit Day"** - wear blue and yellow, or your spirit wear if you have a sweatshirt or t-shirt at home! Our spiritwear order for this year is coming soon from our PTO.

**Fridays are sports day.** Wear your Seahawks gear, or the colors of your favorite sports team or the team you play on outside of school!

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## Photos from around school



## Student & Parent Handbook

Click here for a link to our Student Handbook. This is where you'll find school/district rules and policies and important information about being a Robert Gray Explorer!

### Reminder for Families: Smart Watches

**Reminder:** Smart watches operate much like cell phones and both are not allowed during school hours due to the distraction they pose in the classroom. Students are expected to put them in their backpack during the school day. District policy states that these devices must be checked into the office upon arrival and picked up at dismissal - however at Robert Gray we are willing to allow students to keep them in backpacks as long as they can manage that responsibility, and only require students to check them into the office on a case-by-case basis. I understand the convenience of communicating with your student via cell phone or smart watch and the desire to be able to "track" your child before and after school; however to ensure safety and proper communication with the adults at school, if you need to get a message to your child during school hours, especially when it comes to changes in dismissal plans - please call the office and we'll make sure your child and the teacher are informed.

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### Winter weather and recess at school:

As fall approaches and the weather begins to change, please remember that we go outside for recess 3 times a day! Please help your child remember weather-appropriate shoes and jackets so they can enjoy recess and be comfortable when they return to their learning. You are welcome to pack boots/extra clothes in your child's backpack, as we do not have extra clothing at school due to rainy weather, but will try to call home for dry clothes as needed.



We also have resources to support your family if you are in need of jackets or shoes. Please call the school, e-mail our counselor Ms. Halleck, or click the Family & Community Resource Center button below.

In general, we go outside when it is raining - and only stay indoors if the weather conditions are determined to be unsafe according to our [Weather Guidelines for Children](#) or [Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality](#). If you have questions or concerns about how we make the decision for indoor recess, please get in touch with Mrs. Wall via e-mail or call the school.

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[Click here for our Family & Community Resource Center](#)

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**Click here to Connect with Robert Gray PTO!**



### Here's how to get in touch with us

**Website:** <https://robertgray.longviewschools.com/>

**Location:** [4622 Ohio Street, Longview, WA, USA](#)

**Phone:** (360) 575-7302

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RobertGrayLongview/>



**Kristie Wall**

Kristie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters