

Back To School FAQs – August 20, 2021

- **What time does school start and end?**

Classroom doors open at 8:15 a.m. for students, and the school day begins at 8:30. If your child is not inside their classroom at 8:30, they will need to stop by the office to check in and get a tardy slip before heading to class. If your child arrives at school after 8:40 a.m., they need to be walked into the office by a parent to be checked in (and if your child is a kindergarten or 1st grader, a parent will need to walk them down to their classroom after they get their tardy slip.) Our school day ends at 3:00 p.m., and carpool pick up lasts until 3:10 p.m.

- **Can my child walk or ride their bike to school?**

If you live in one of the nearby neighborhoods and would like your child to ride their bike or walk to/from school, that is fine. Please communicate with your child's teacher via email whether this will be a daily routine, occasional, or other. All walking/biking students must have a current Walking/Biking Release form on file for the 2021-22 school year. We will attach a copy to this email if you need to print and send in a new one, or they're available in the school office.

- **Is there still a service hour requirement for families each semester?**

We are temporarily pausing the family service hour requirement (which normally would have been 15 hours per semester or 30 for the year, per family) until we are able to offer a broader range of volunteer opportunities to our families. We will be sure to keep you informed if things change over the course of the year.

- **Will there still be "Pizza Tuesdays" and "Hot Dog Thursdays", where my child can order lunch?**

Yes. Students will need to place their orders with the teachers the day before, and Tuesdays we will bring in pizza from Papa John's. The cost for pizza is still \$2.00 per slice. The hot dog lunch will include an all-beef hot dog (students can opt for either one or two hot dogs for the same price), a bag of chips, & applesauce. The cost of the hot dog lunch is \$3.00. Parents can deposit money to their child's lunch account in the school office (or by calling in with a payment over the phone), and they will be notified when the balance runs low. If you had money left in your family lunch account at the end of last year, then the office can let you know your remaining credit balance. These programs are fundraisers for our 8th Grade Washington, DC trip. **Pizza and Hot Dog Lunch will begin the week of 9/6/21.** Students are invited to order lunch on either or both days this week free of charge, if desired (up to two slices of pizza).

- **What if my child forgets their lunch at home?**

We have "emergency lunches" in the office to make sure any child with a missing lunch has food. (Students can also call home and let you know, in case someone is available to bring their lunch up to them.) They consist of a Cup o' Noodle, a bag of chips, and an applesauce. The cost for an emergency lunch is \$3.00 (We do ask the kids to call home to make sure it is OK with the parents that they are given one. Sometimes kids have decided to eat all of their lunch at snack time, so when they come to the office and say "I don't have a lunch", we want to make sure parents approve before they are given another lunch and are charged for it.)

- **Where will the students eat lunch?**
 Students will eat lunch in their classrooms, and recess will be held outside. Because the students will not be eating in the cafeteria, please pack food in their lunches that does not require heating or adding hot/boiled water, as students will not have access to microwaves or a hot water source.
- **Will there still be a “Parent Night/Curriculum Night” in September for parents to come to campus and hear from their child(ren)’s teacher about classroom policies and routines?**
 Yes! This is taking place the first Thursday of the school year – mark your calendars now for **Thursday, Sept. 2nd at 6:30.** More info to come soon! (*Because of space restrictions, this is a parent only event.)
- **Will there still be school pictures this year?**
 Yes. Lifetouch is still planning to come out and take student pictures. Our picture day is currently scheduled for Thursday, September 16th.
- **Will there still be a Payback Book sale?**
 Yes, our PTF (Parent/Teacher Fellowship) still plans to participate in the annual Payback Book fundraiser. More information will be sent home soon.....this is always an easy and profitable fundraiser for our school each year.
- **What if my child needs to take medication while at school?**
 Parents need to bring in the medication to the office (clearly labeled with the student’s name) and fill out a new medication authorization form for the current year. This applies to both prescription medications, as well as over the counter meds (like if you want to leave Children’s Tylenol or Benadryl at school if your child is prone to headaches, allergies, etc.) We must have a form on file in order to store and dispense medication to them.
- **How does the school communicate with parents?**
 We send out a weekly newsletter, as well as schoolwide emails. (These are sent out via Constant Contact or RenWeb/FACTS, so you will want to make sure they are marked as “safe senders” so it doesn’t end up in your junk folder.) Teachers also send classroom newsletters and emails. We also post information on our school Facebook page and school website.
- **What important dates should I know for the coming month?**

 - **Thursday, 8/26:** Back to School Night (supply drop off) between 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - **Tuesday, 8/31:** First Day of School (8:30-3:00)
 - **Thursday, 9/2:** Parent Night – More info to come
 - **Friday, 9/3:** Early Release – 11:30 a.m. – for Labor Day Weekend
 - **Monday, 9/6:** No School – Labor Day
 - **Tuesday, 9/7 - Thursday 9/9:** Middle School Retreat at Eagle Fern Camp
 - **Tuesday, 9/7:** First “Pizza Day” – All students can order pizza for free (up to 2 slices)
 - **Thursday, 9/9:** First “Hot Dog Lunch” – All students can order lunch for free
 - **Thursday, 9/16:** Lifetouch Picture Day