

GILSON BROWN

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Mrs. JoAnne Curvey – Principal



They say, “Time flies when you are having fun!” Well, we must be having a blast because time sure is flying. I cannot believe this is the beginning of October.

As you can imagine, there’s a flurry of excitement as we prepare to receive students back in school for the first time since March 15th. Every parent/guardian must login to Skyward to make a choice as to whether or not they will be coming for Hybrid (twice a week in person instruction) or full remote. An important fact to consider is that for families who choose full remote, your child’s teacher will not be the same teacher to whom she/he is currently assigned.

Parent Drop-Off

Students may be dropped off at school no earlier than 8:15am. At that time, I will have staff available to supervise students. Bus students will be dropped off at the front doors. All students being dropped off by a parent or caregiver must be dropped off at parent drop off/pick up location. Pull onto campus, follow the drive around the side, back, and then the second side of the building by the church. There you will stop at the sidewalk and your child will exit your car for drop off. There will be an adult to welcome your child to school. The next few items of this newsletter will explain what will happen after your child enters the building. We thank you for keeping our line moving quickly as you drop off and wish your child a day full of challenges, mistakes, and learning.

Hand Sanitizing Stations

Upon entering the building, each person will stop and use the hand sanitizing station at the entrance. Each classroom and office space also has a hand sanitizing station at the entrance.

Temperature Kiosk/Masks

Any person who enters the building, students, staff, visitors, will be asked to stop at the Temperature Kiosk to have their temperature taken. The kiosk will remind everyone to put on a mask if they don’t have one on. If a student comes to school without a mask, they will be handed one to use. If a student presents with a fever at the kiosk, the student will be moved to the infirmary room to quarantine from the rest of the students. (More on that in a moment.)

Attendance Procedure (In Person and Remote)

Whether you choose Hybrid or Remote only, attendance will be taken. For Hybrid Learners, the classroom teacher will take attendance of both the Red and Gray students. An example of this is, Red students are in school and Gray are at home. The classroom teacher will take attendance of those students in person. Then, classroom teachers will have a Zoom Link where the Gray students will login for a quick morning check with their teacher and have their attendance recorded. Each student MUST check in via the teacher's Zoom Link on their remote day for attendance to be counted as present.

Certify Student Wellness

By putting your child on the bus or dropping off at school, you are assuring us that you have checked for any COVID related symptoms and your child, to your knowledge, is symptom free.

Presenting with a COVID Symptom

If at the temperature kiosk or during the course of the day a student presents with any COVID symptoms, they will be escorted to the infirmary room where they will wait for a parent or guardian to come pick them up. The school nurse will call and let you know what symptom(s) is present.

Infirmary

While in the infirmary (just a classroom with socially distanced areas for students to wait) your child will be supervised by an adult.

Breakfast/Lunch

Students will eat breakfast in their classrooms. After entering the building, having their temperature taken, a mask check and hand sanitizing, students will grab their breakfast that will be on a table at the entrance and take the breakfast to their classroom to eat. Lunch will also be eaten in the classroom to be socially distanced and avoid interaction with other classrooms.

Water Bottles

Students may and should bring water bottles to school. We will not be using the community water fountains and therefore to be able to drink throughout the day, a water bottle will be necessary. This water bottle may only contain WATER. It should have a lid that has a pop top or straw that pops up. Water bottles with screw top lids, as we know, can lead to spills in the classroom. Please note, no sports drinks, no soft drinks and no tea.

Pick-Up

Parent pick up is in the same location as drop off. Pull onto campus around the back and side of the building to the church lot side. Parents/guardians will wait in the car and an adult will read your parent pick up tag number and call inside for your child to be sent out. We will walk your child to your car. As always, we appreciate you loading your child into the car quickly to keep our line moving.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 29th and October 30th. Please watch for information to be sent home from the district regarding the times as well as when you can call the office to make an appointment.

Picture Day

Picture Day has been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 4th for students on the Red Schedule and Thursday, November 5th for students attending on the Gray Schedule. For students who will continue with Remote Only learning, the photographers will be at school ready to photograph you on both Wednesday, November 4th and Thursday, November 5th between 8:00 and 8:45. We want all of our students to be photographed and in our yearbook so please be sure to come one of those two days. Remember to wear a mask when you enter the building. Of course, all photographs will be taken without masks. We will be sure to keep all social distancing rules enforced.

End of Quarter 1

The first quarter ends on Friday, October 16th. Second quarter begins on Monday, October 19th marking the beginning of our Hybrid Learning schedule.

District Early Dismissal Days

There will be no early out days for students at this time. You will notice on your district calendar that there are early dismissal days indicated by a half shaded square. Due to our compressed schedule and shortened days, we will not be taking those early dismissal days.

From the Nurse

If your child takes medication at school, please be sure to contact the school nurse for instructions on how to make this happen. If your child uses an inhaler or other breathing device, please call the nurse to discuss this. We want to make sure that we have all of the documentation needed for your child in regards to medications. If you have any questions or aren't sure that you need to call, just give us a call. We're happy to work through questions with you.

School Supplies

As we plan for the return to in person learning, I wanted to share the school supply list with you so that you can begin getting what your child will need at school to complete in class assignments. The supplies they are currently using at home can remain at home for the three days of remote learning they will be doing.

Please send the following items:

- Crayons
- Box of tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Pencil box

- Pencils
- 2 boxes of gallon Ziplock bags
- Paper towels

IMPORTANT: For our in-person learners, please send back your student's math book, whiteboards, magnetic letters and Foundations board. We will need those learning tools both at school as well as at home.

Kindergarten News

October is going to be a fun-filled busy month in Kindergarten. We will be working on using our letter knowledge to increase our understanding of letters, sounds, and words. We will be using our sight words to read emergent level books and write simple sentences.

In math, we will be learning to recognize numbers/number words from 0-5, find ways to make the numbers to 5, understand greater than, fewer than, equal to, and count to 30. (At home, you can help by using the words greater than instead of more; fewer than instead of less, and equal to rather than same.) Here's an example. You have 5 M&Ms and I have 8. Which is greater? 8 or 5? How many fewer do you have than do I have...etc.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 29 and 30. Be sure to watch for the notice that says you can call the school to make your appointment.

Falling for First Grade

In first grade, we are building our sight word vocabulary so we have fluency in our reading. We are looking at retelling a story and comprehension in reading, too.

Our students have also been reading and spelling words using their letter sounds by blending or chunking them together.

In math, we will be learning strategies for addition and subtraction such as drawing pictures, counting on, counting back, and mental math.

Our first graders will have fun with their learning by exploring fire safety, spiders, bats, and pumpkins through reading, writing, and math for the month of October!

Thank you parents, grandparents, and all who help support our students throughout all the challenges!