



Council Grove Elementary School

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July 14, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! We are getting ready for a great year! Please read the attached information about attendance at the end of this letter. I will follow our truancy policy (located in the CGES Parent/Student Handbook on our website www.usd417.net). The research on attendance is eye-opening and will help your child be successful in school.

We are able to provide our 4 Year Old At-Risk Preschool Program to serve any and all four year olds in our district! We have morning and afternoon slots available. If you have a child that is 4 years old or will be 4 years old by August 31st, and you would like for him/her to attend our district Pre-K program, please plan to attend Onsite Enrollment at the Council Grove Junior Senior High School Commons Area on July 27th or 28th (1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.) Please also spread the word to friends and family that may be interested in this opportunity!

Online enrollment is currently open for returning students and will end on July 28th. If you need assistance with the online enrollment tool between July 5th and July 28th, please contact the district office at 620-767-5192. Any returning students who do not complete the enrollment process online will need to attend one of the onsite enrollment dates on either July 27th or July 28th, from 1:00pm to 7:00pm, in the Council Grove Junior Senior High School commons area.

Back to School Night for Pre-K - 6th grade students is on August 15th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. We will be using SignUpGenius to schedule Back to School Night times with teachers. Your child's teacher will contact you with more information in August. After our Back to School meetings, we will have our Annual Title I meeting. This short meeting is required and will: Inform parents/families of their school's participation, explain the requirements of the Title 1, Part A program and to explain the right of parents to be involved. Kindergarten Orientation will be held on the morning of August 16th. For Kindergarten parents, a separate letter with more information is attached.

CGES is excited to remind you about PAC (Parent Advisory Council). Our goal is to increase participation and parent involvement during meetings. PTO/PAC will be held at the same time to combine two meetings into one. During PAC meetings, we would like parent feedback when reviewing/creating policy, reviewing KESA Action Plans, and how to better support parents on school curriculum, academics, and social/emotional student growth. Please contact Mrs. Honas if you are interested in having a role in PAC. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings will be held in Mrs. Bremer's Room and via Zoom. Please enter the main doors. Zoom links to the meeting will also be shared via Classroom Dojo.

Our Board of Education just approved providing free breakfast for all USD 417 students! It is important for every family to fill out the Free/Reduced Application to see if you qualify for free or reduced lunches. This data is also an important part of our school funding, so we appreciate your help filling out the form! (I have attached the application link at the end of this letter.) Breakfast will be eaten in the lunchroom. Doors open at 7:45 am. Students eating breakfast will go directly to the lunchroom and students not eating will report to their classroom. Bus riders who are eating breakfast will report directly to the lunchroom before going to their classroom. If you are dropping your child off at school, please make sure to allow time for eating; students are tardy at 8:00 am.

We have quite a few new faces in our staff this year. Listed below are our grade level and specials teachers. Pre-K: Angie Bailey and Brooke Lococo, Kindergarten: Brier Blythe and Robin Frye, 1st Grade: Brianna Allen, Milo Butler and Lori May, 2nd Grade: Myah Frick and MaKenzie Rowlett, 3rd Grade: Alicia Kelley and Stantanna Stewart, 4th Grade: Destiny Barnett, Emily Hrencher and Julie Koch, 5th Grade: Tiffany Bunn, Theresa Kinsey and April Winegar, 6th Grade: Colleen Booker and Joshua Gant, PE/Health: Broc Finch, Vocal Music: Lisa Bolieu, 5th/6th Grade Band: Matthew Meals and Lisa Bolieu. Our school counselors are Tina Wheeler and Joel Young, and our Title I Teachers are Angela Harris and Krista Wilson. Mallory Hiegert, Amy Nielsen and Sarah Secord are Special Education teachers.

Class lists will be posted on our website the first week of August.

Below are **tentative** dates that you may want to put on your calendar.

2023-24 CGES Tentative Dates

July 5 - July 28 - Online Enrollment for returning students only (www.usd417.net)
July 27-28 - Onsite Enrollment for new or returning students @ CGJSHS
August 7 - PTO/Parent Advisory Council (6:00 p.m. in Mrs. Bremer's Room or via Zoom (Zoom link will be posted on ClassDojo)
August 15 - PreK-6th Back to School Night by Appointment (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
August 16 - Kindergarten Transition Day (8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
August 17 - First Day of School! (School starts at 8:00 a.m. and Dismissal is at 3:10 p.m.)
August 22 - Band Instrument Showing (6:30-7:30 p.m. in the lunchroom)
September 4 - No School - Labor Day
September 14 - 4th Grade to Twin Lakes Water Festival
September 15 - Fall Picture Day
September 25 - No School - Professional Development
October 4 - 6th Grade Field Trip
October 6 - 1st Grade Field Trip
October 6 - 2nd Grade Field Trip
October 13 - Early Dismissal (1:10 p.m.) End of 1st Quarter
October 16-19 - PTO Book Fair
October 17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
October 19 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
October 20 - No School - Parent/Teacher Conference Week
October 23 - PTO/Parent Advisory Council (6:00 p.m. in Mrs. Bremer's Room or

via Zoom (Zoom link will be posted on ClassDojo)

October 24 - 6th Grade to The Topeka Symphony
October 25 - Late Start (10:00 a.m.) - No breakfast or AM Pre-K classes
October 27 - Fall Picture Retakes
October 27 - CGES Fall Celebration (Classroom Parties)
November 5 - Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall Back)
November 9 - Veterans Day Assembly (2:15 p.m. in the CGES Gym)
November 10 - No School - Professional Development
November 22-24 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 11-15 - PTO Elf Shop
December 18 - CGES Winter Music Concerts @ CGJSHS Auditorium (6:00 p.m. - PreK and Kindergarten; 6:45 p.m. - 1st and 2nd grades)
December 19 - CGES Winter Music Concerts @ CGJSHS Auditorium (6:00 p.m. - 3rd/4th grades; 7:00 p.m. - 5th/6th Grades Band and Vocal)
December 20 - All School Christmas Assembly (9:00 a.m.) Classroom parties
December 20 - Early Dismissal (1:10 p.m.) - End of 2nd Quarter
December 21st - January 2nd - Winter Break
January 3 - No School - Professional Development
January 4 - Classes Resume
January 15 - No School - MLK Day
January 22 - PTO/Parent Advisory Council (6:00 p.m. in Mrs. Bremer's Room or via Zoom (Zoom link will be posted on ClassDojo)
January 24 - CGES Spelling Bee (9:15 a.m.)
January 26 - 3rd Grade Bread in a Bag
January 29 - No School - Professional Development
February 7 - County Spelling Bee @ CGJSHS (1:00 p.m.)
February 14 - Valentine's Day Classroom Parties
February 16 - No School - Professional Development
February 19-22 - PTO Book Fair
February 20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
February 22 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
February 23 - No School - Parent/Teacher Conference Week
February 28 - Late Start (10:00 a.m.) - No breakfast or AM PreK classes
March 4 - PTO/Parent Advisory Council (6:00 p.m. in Mrs. Bremer's Room or via Zoom (Zoom link will be posted on ClassDojo)
March 8 - Early Dismissal (1:10 p.m.) - End of 3rd Quarter
March 10 - Daylight Saving Time Starts (Spring Forward)
March 11-15 - No School - Spring Break
March 19 - Spring Individual/Class Picture Day
March 21 & 22 - Early Childhood Screening (No PreK classes)
March 28 - Kindergarten Round Up (No PreK or Kindergarten classes)
March 29 - No School - Good Friday
April 10 - Late Start (10:00 a.m.) - No breakfast or AM PreK classes
April 26 - 3rd Grade Field Trip

April 29 - PTO/Parent Advisory Council (6:00 p.m. in Mrs. Bremer's Room or via Zoom (Zoom link will be posted on ClassDojo))

May 3 - Kindergarten Field Trip

May 3 - 4th Grade Field Trip

May 6 - CGES Spring Music Concerts @ CGJSHS Auditorium (6:00 p.m. - PreK and Kindergarten; 6:45 p.m. - 1st and 2nd grades)

May 7 - CGES Spring Music Concerts @ CGJSHS Auditorium (6:00 p.m. - 3rd/4th grades; 7:00 p.m. - 5th/6th Grades Band and Vocal)

May 16 - 2nd/3rd Grade Play Day (9:00-11:00 a.m.) -4th/5th Grade Play Day (1:00-3:00 p.m.) - 3rd Grade Bike Safety (PM)

May 17 - Kindergarten Celebration (12:30 p.m.) Kdg/1st Grade Play Day (1:00-2:30 p.m.)

May 21 - Last Day of School! (3:10 p.m. dismissal) AM Preschool Celebration (10:00 a.m.), PM Preschool Celebration (2:00 p.m.)

June 1 - Lost and Found items taken to Thrift Store

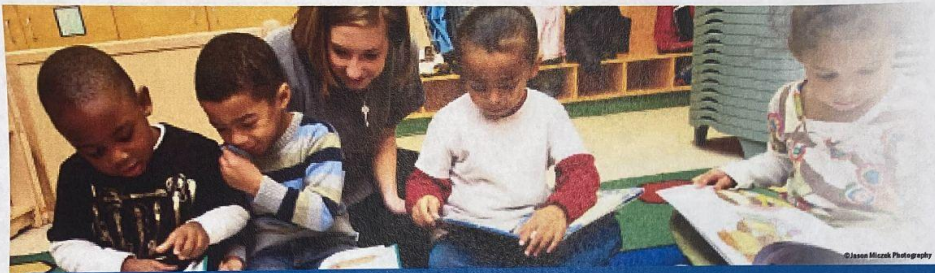
I am excited for this year! Let's make the 2023-2024 school year the best yet for our students, staff, families and communities!

Sincerely,

Heather A. Honas

Heather Honas
CGES Principal

[Free/Reduced Application](#)



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

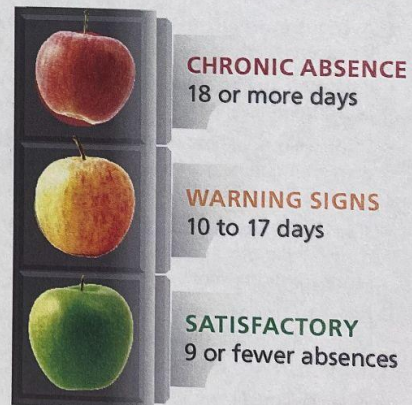
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org