

# COUNCIL GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020

### CGES November 2020 Activity Calendar

11/1/2020	Daylight Saving Time Ends
11/2/2020	PTO/Site Council Meeting-6:00 pm via ZOOM
11/6/2020	End of Quarter 1/Early Dismissal-1:10 pm
11/9/2020	Board of Education Meeting-6:00 pm
11/10/2020	CGES Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences-4 to 8pm
11/12/2020	CGES Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences-4 to 8pm
11/13/2020	Conference Week/NO School
11/16/2020	CGES Picture Retake Day
11/25-27/2020	Thanksgiving Break
11/30/2020	Professional Development/NO School
12/1/2020	Classes resume

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Dear Parents,

I want to again thank you for your part in keeping our kids safe and healthy! We are still onsite due to the stringent rules and regulations we are following. It takes all of us (parents, teachers, staff, students and community) working together to keep our doors open. We are having some trouble with a few students not bringing a mask to school. Last week there was a robo-call and email sent out to families stating that if a student does not bring a mask, one will be provided by the school at a cost to the parent. In order for your child to be in school he/she must wear a mask. I will say that probably 99% of our students wear their masks correctly and without complaints! Thank you for supporting this at home!

November 6<sup>th</sup> is the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks grading period. This is also the time to change from remote learning to onsite or from onsite to remote learning. If you are planning a different learning option and have not contacted the school, please call asap so we can make plans. Due to the number of students coming back onsite (yay!), we will have to adjust our room configurations. Currently, all classrooms but one, have student desks 6 feet apart. With the increase of student numbers starting 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the increase of new students to our building, some of our rooms are not able to accommodate individual desks being six feet apart. We are going to do the next best thing. We will change desk arrangements into pairs that are six feet apart. When individual student desks are spaced 6 feet apart, if we have a positive case then there shouldn't be the need to quarantine other students in the classroom. With pairs of desks 6 feet apart, if we have a positive case than the only student to be quarantined would be the partner of the confirmed case. If we were to spread out desks individually and they weren't six feet apart,



then there would be several students in quarantine for one positive case. I know this is confusing. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Office update – as of right now, we are on track for the office construction to be finished by Thanksgiving. Hopefully by December we will have a better communication system and the door camera/buzzer system will be in place so you won't have to use your phone to call the office. We are very excited for this new space! Even though you can't come in the building, there will be lots of windows for you to look through to take a peek.

Thank you again for your support! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Honas, CGES Principal

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Due to the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in our district and community, we will not be having onsite parent/teacher conferences. Your child's teacher will be contacting you in the near future to schedule a time to meet virtually via Zoom, Google Meet or telephone on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> or Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your understanding and helping us keep our staff healthy so we can remain onsite.

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### **PICTURE RETAKES**

Picture retakes will be taken on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are not pleased with your child's picture that was taken earlier in the year and wish to try again, please return the packet you ordered with your child on picture retake day. Photographers will take another picture and replace the previously purchased packet. If your child is a new student or was absent on September 16<sup>th</sup>, he/she will be getting their picture taken for yearbook purposes.



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### **NOTES FROM THE LUNCH LADY**

With each school serving style looking different for breakfast and lunch this year I and the food service staff have tried to keep our meals consistent as we all navigate through day to day changes. Thankfully, we were able to keep some form of a fresh fruit and veggie bar and hot meal choices available at all schools. In case you haven't heard USDA has passed a waiver to allow Free Breakfast and Lunch Meals to kids through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. USD 417 opted for this waiver which means as long as your child attends USD 417 your child's reimbursable meal is free.

I've had some questions over the past few weeks as to what we allow as free and what we don't.

#### **What's considered "Free" - The Complete Meal**

- Meat, Grain, Fruit/Veggie, Milk (as long as your child takes 3 of the 5 options with ¾ cup fruit/veggie from 2 different sources the meal is considered reimbursable “free”)

**What Isn’t “Free” – you will be responsible to pay for**

**The Food Service Alert is your way of being notified when your child has a low or negative balance, to stop alerts please keep any amount over \$5.00 in your child’s powerschool lunch account.**

- Milk with a sack lunch – this is \$.50 Extra (we also provide water cups at the elementary schools during lunch)
- Doubles of a Main Entrée – These run anywhere from \$1.25 - \$2.00 Daily
- Ala Carte Purchases – I am still working on a version of this at the High School
- Forgotten Water Bottles - \$.25 These are available at all Schools

**For your Information**

Funding for school food is typically ran under The National School Lunch Program but this year we are running under The Summer Food Program. With this we have a new set of regulations, such as

- A different fruit/veggie portion amount that kids need to take to make a reimbursable meal. This is due to summer food being originally designed to promote fruits and vegetables during the summer. Plus, summer is when most of the really tasty fresh fruits and vegetables are easily found.
- Our main and grain portion sizes are all 1 standard across all the grades; however, I have tried to fix this on my end so there won’t be as much of a drastic change for many grade levels.
- Grain Based Desserts such as cookies, cakes, cinnamon rolls, etc. are not funded through Summer Food like they are funded through National School Lunch. Food Service won’t be able to provide these kinds of fun options without outside funding.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact

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