Welcome Back to School!

From the desk of Mrs. Meldrum 2021-2022

August 16, 2021

Dear Rainier Elementary Families,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. I hope you and your family have had a great summer and found time to enjoy special activities together. We look forward to an amazing school year and are excited that we will be going back five days a week to in-person learning.

One of the most important aspects of my work as Rainier’s principal is building solid relationships with students, families and staff. It is very important to me to be in the hallways, classrooms, lunchroom and on the playground getting to know your child(ren). In my past experience, I have found that kids really appreciate a person who genuinely invests in them and who is fair in decision making. These two things are extremely important to me.

In addition to building strong relationships with all of you, it is also particularly important to us to make sure that your child feels safe at school. If you ever have a concern about something or a question about a specific situation or procedure please do not hesitate to call or email me. Communication is paramount in a school. For this reason, I will always encourage you to contact your child’s teacher, my office staff, or myself with questions.

Each school year brings new members to our staff and we are excited to welcome five new teachers to our building. Our new team members include: Shasta Lofgren – 3rd Grade, Rebecca Edwards – 5th grade, Kelsey Mahan – 5th grade, Heidi Collins - SEL, and Kate Gurnsey – STEM. Olivia Griffin will be doing her student teaching this year with Jan Dickerson – 2nd grade. Dalton Delio will be teaching PE, Gabi Taheri will be teaching Music, and Ben Sheaffer will be working alongside me as our Student Support/Dean of Students.

Our first K-5 family event will be our Open House on Wednesday, September 1st from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for you and your child to meet your child’s teacher and bring in any necessary school supplies to the classroom. During Open House you can also tour our building and meet our specialist team: Music, PE, STEM and SEL along with our office staff. **Masks are required for all participants regardless of vaccination status.**
For me, the first day of school can’t get here fast enough. I am really eager to get to hear all about summer break and, of course, meet all of our new students and families. Rainier is a school community that has many things to be proud of. We have extraordinary teachers, staff, students, families and volunteers. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child(ren) each day. I am truly honored.

Please continue to check your email as more information and updates will be coming your way. Guidance and protocols change almost weekly, so thank you in advance for your support and flexibility. Below is some important information I would like to convey to you regarding the 2021-2022 school year.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach me by email meldrumr@rainier.wednet.edu or phone 360.446.4020. Our office officially opens on Monday, August 23rd from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm.

Sincerely,
Rita Meldrum, Principal
Rainier Elementary School

Morning Drop Off
- The school is open for drop off as early as 8:00 am. If you arrive before 8:00 am you will need to keep your child in your vehicle until a visual signal from school personnel at 8:00 am.
- At 8:00, your child will enter the building at their designated door as this allows for us to keep cohort groups together. Kindergarten and 1st: front door; 3rd and 5th – side door and 2nd and 4th back door. All access points will be clearly marked.
- Our parking lot is one way. Please pull into the lane nearest the curb and exit by driving around to the left.
- To keep traffic moving please pull forward.
- It would be helpful if students are prepared with backpacks and coats ready to be dropped off quickly in this right lane.
- For your child’s safety, please have them exit the vehicle on the passenger side closest to the sidewalk.
- Please do not stop on the crosswalk or exit your vehicle.
- **After dropping off your student, please take care pulling away from the curb as other cars will be passing through.**

Afternoon Pick Up
- Please do not park and get out of your vehicle to pick up your child.
- If you choose to walk to come and pick-up your child, please wait over by the flag pole area and we will release your child to you.
- Our parking lot is one way. Please pull into the lane closest to the school on the curb and exit by driving around to the left, through the back of the parking lot.
- Please continue to pull forward as other cars exit the pick-up zone. Our pick-up line runs more smoothly if the cars advance forward as far as possible when space opens up. Please pick up your child quickly to prevent a traffic back-up.
For your child’s safety, we will have them enter the vehicle on the passenger side closest to the sidewalk.  
Please do not stop on the crosswalk or exit your vehicle.  
Please have your passenger side window down so we can communicate with you regarding pick-up.

**Chromebooks:**
At this time, we are not checking out Chromebooks for students to take home. Chromebooks will be available in each student’s classroom. If by chance your child is out for an extended absence, we will check a Chromebook out to them.

**Learning Option:**
The only learning option that we will offer this year is in-person learning. We look forward to having your child here at RES five days a week for in-person instruction. Our day begins at 8:25 am.

**At Home Screening:**
- *Parents are expected to screen their child(ren) daily before school for Covid symptoms.*
  - *These symptoms include:* a fever >100.4, cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, fever, diarrhea/vomiting, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, unusual fatigue.
- Students with any of the above listed symptoms are not permitted in the building.

**Masks:**
- Students are required to wear a face mask, covering both the nose and mouth on buses and in school district buildings at all times. Students are responsible for supplying their own face coverings (face masks will be available to those in need).
- Students will be given the opportunity to remove masks during meal times and outdoors.

**Social Distancing:**
- Students will be spaced out 3’ throughout the day with only infrequent and intermittent contact within 3’.

**Health Room and Isolation Space:**
- There is a designated isolation space to host any person with suspected Covid-19 symptoms. This space will be thoroughly disinfected after each use.
- Standard health room will provide routine health services for any non-Covid related issues.

**Staggered Release:**
We will once again release our students on a staggered release schedule to help with social distancing and pick-up. In order for it to go as smooth as possible we need your help.

- Kindergarten and 1st grade @ 2:40 pm
- 2nd and 3rd grade @ 2:45 pm
- 4th and 5th grade @ 2:50 pm
If you are picking up students in multiple grades, please arrive at their latest pickup time to help with the “5” numbered spots that we have out front for our vehicles.

**Growth (Portables):** The district is doing their very best to get our new portables up and ready to be occupied ASAP. They will be placed by the new playground. Unfortunately, everything takes a little bit more time than officially planned. Both Music and SEL will be on wheels until the portables are set up and occupied by our 5th grade classes and one 4th grade class.

**Start Dates:**
- 1st - 5th grade begins on Tuesday, September 7th
- Kindergarten begins on Friday, September 10th

**Student Supply List:**
For a list of classroom supplies, please click on the following link: [Student Supply List](#)

**Office Hours:**
Our office will open Monday, August 23rd from 7:30 am - 3:30pm