

Principal Newsletter 9-3-21

Dear Brooke Grove Families,

Thank you for a wonderful first week back to school! We have seen the joy of students being back in person and being able to connect with staff and peers. Students are doing a great job wearing their masks, sanitizing their hands, and keeping their materials in their places. It has been a positive start to what will be a great year!

Please be clear with your student about dismissal plans. We are working hard to ensure that dismissal runs quickly and smoothly. If you are picking up your student in the car rider lane, please be sure to have your family id # in your dashboard, and it is also helpful to tell the staff member your child's name until all students learn their numbers.

If you are picking up your student as a walker, please be sure to stand and wait in the proper grade level zone. Look for the cones/signs that designate the grade level waiting area. If you have more than one student, please go to the zone for your youngest student and have your older students meet you there.

If your dismissal plan changes for the day, please notify the teacher AND the front office. Teachers are often working directly with students and are not available to see emails. Please try not to change plans after 2:45 pm. Thank you for your support.

We have crossing guards and student safety patrols assisting with a safe arrival and dismissal. Please help your students understand the importance of paying attention to their directions.

As many of you know, our amazing school counselor, Mrs. Grief is on leave until mid- November. We are grateful that we have hired Dr. Cheryl Temple-Journiette as a substitute counselor until Mrs. Grief's return. Please see below for a video message from both Mrs. Grief and Dr. J!

Rachel Greif <https://youtu.be/BjRDUZZw7Xw>

Dr. J https://youtu.be/SRc_p46EjOg

Greetings from Dr. J:

Hello Brooke Grove Elementary School Community,

I am Dr. Cheryl Temple–Journiette, the long–term substitute counselor for Mrs. Rachel Greif. As a retired educator with over thirty years’ experience, I have considerable experience as a school counselor, mentor, and a pupil personnel worker. It goes without saying that I am excited to be part of the Brooke Groove Elementary School team.

Some of my more memorable experiences were in my position as an elementary school counselor. In this fulfilling capacity, I learned the importance of providing healthy emotional and social supports for all students. My emphasis will continue to focus on their responsibility as learners, being respectful of others while striving for academic success.

As a mother and a grandmother of an elementary student, I understand the role of family and community in supporting school age children. I believe that our children stand on our shoulders. They need us to model appropriate behaviors and expectations that support their development.

So as this school year begins I am committed to providing supports to our students as they transition back into the school environment. I am looking forward to working with your children. During my time here, I hope that I have an opportunity to meet you as well. Please take care and stay well.

Health/Quarantine

As we return to school, we continue to rely on our families and each individual to screen themselves daily for symptoms. To help us avoid quarantine, we are asking that you please continue to screen your children at home and if they have even one symptom of COVID–19, or are awaiting COVID test results, please do not send them to school.

This is particularly important as if your child has any of the following single symptoms they will be sent home and not be able to return to school until they have a negative test, alternate diagnosis, or complete a full 10–day quarantine. During that period of time, all other students who have been in close contact will have to be in a temporary quarantine while the other families wait on the outcome of that testing for your child. This could be potentially disruptive to your children and families moving in and out of quarantine and to avoid it takes all of us working together. It is a collective responsibility that we exercise extreme caution and be conservative in our approach.

The single symptoms that the health room staff screen for and will result in quarantine are cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, fever

≥100.4°, sore throat, severe Headache, diarrhea or vomiting. Please do not send your children to school with any of these symptoms. This is essential for us to continue to remain in school without quarantine.

Quarantine Instructional Plans

We have quarantine instructional plans in place in the cases where students may need to quarantine. Students will have access to live instruction via Zoom for English/Language Arts and Math. There will also be live check-ins for students to be on zoom with a staff member to get further support on their independent work assignments. If you are directed by a medical professional to quarantine your child, please contact us at 240-722-1800, and we will communicate with you further to set up an instructional schedule.

I hope you have a restful and relaxing long weekend. We look forward to students' return on Wednesday, September 8th.

Warmly,

Jolynn Tarwater, Principal

Brooke Grove Elementary

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