

Parent Update: Second Week of School

Students and Parents,

Thank you all for a great first week of school. It was a true blessing being able to see us all back in our school. I am very excited for what this year has in store for us. As you prepare for our second week of school, I wanted to provide you with some school updates as well as communication on various school related items.

AM Drop-Off & PM Dismissal/Pick-Up

- After reviewing our initial plans for morning drop off and afternoon dismissal, there will be a couple of changes beginning tomorrow, 9/20/21, to help minimize the heavy traffic and make these times a little less chaotic.
 - **AM Drop-Off**
 - Starting tomorrow morning, 9/20/21, Bishop Baraga School will open its doors at 7:30 am to students. Students entering the building between 7:30-7:55 am will be instructed to put their backpacks in their lockers and proceed to the playground, where a school staff member will supervise until the 7:55 am bell.
 - We kindly ask that you have a conversation with your child about parking lot etiquette, and the importance of being vigilant in the parking lot. With the doors to BBCS opening earlier, less staff will be available to help assist children getting from vehicles to the school. Please encourage your children to look both ways when getting out of their vehicle, as well as not running in the parking lot. Parents, if you would please help by ensuring that your child is dropped off in close proximity to the school doors and refrain from allowing your child to get out of the vehicle until they are close to the school.
 - We hope that this change will alleviate some of the heavy traffic that we are experiencing all at one time, as well as allow parents to drop their children off in a more conducive time for their personal schedules.
 - **PM Dismissal/Pick-Up**
 - Also starting tomorrow, we will be dismissing students at 2:46 pm. When speaking with Officer Ron Fenlon this week, it was agreed that dismissing at the same time as the Cheboygan Public School would help alleviate some of the traffic congestion that we experienced last week.
 - Our dismissal procedures will continue to remain the same. Students riding buses will continue to be dismissed near the playground, and parent pick-up will continue to run the way it has. Thank you to all that have utilized the loading area designated for buckling your child. Please continue to operate with extreme caution in the parking lot as we work on perfecting our dismissal procedures as a staff and work towards making dismissal as safe as it can be.

Student Photos

- Student photos will take place on Wednesday, October 20th this year. Order forms will be sent home with your child prior to this date with further instructions regarding ordering and payment.
- On student photo day, students may dress up in their preferred nicest attire (Sunday best). Students wishing to not dress up on that day should wear their school uniform.

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NWEA Fall Testing

- NWEA Fall testing will begin this week for students in 1st-7th grade. This will be the first of two times this year in which students will take formal, standardized tests. For those of you that do not know much about NWEA, this series of standardized tests are given to our students to generate yearly data regarding your students' learning strengths and areas of growth. As a staff, we use this data to help develop and drive our instruction to help meet the needs of each and every student. You will hear more regarding these tests in your child's parent teacher conferences. These assessments do not count towards your student's report card grades, but are used to help us make the best educational decisions for your student.
- Your teachers will be communicating as to when your students will be taking these tests. On testing days, it is always important and helpful if your student is well rested and has eaten a well balanced breakfast.

Parent Information Packet Forms

- Please be sure to send back all of the signed forms that were included in the 2021-22 Parent Information Packet that was sent home with your student last week. These forms were included as a separate attachment and on blue paper.

First Fire Drill of the Year

- This week, Officer Ron Fenlon will be at school to conduct our first fire drill of the year. For this first drill, he will be going to each classroom to discuss the importance of fire drills and prepare students for what to expect, before practicing our first drill. All drills from that point on will not be announced to students.

Volunteer Opportunities

- If you are interested in volunteering and would like to get going on your parent volunteer hours for the year, please contact the school office and let Ann Couture or me know. We have a variety of odd jobs around the school that still need to be done. As these jobs come up, Ann and I will be making a list and offering them up to those available. Thank you in advance for considering volunteering.

ALL Boards Meeting

- If you are a part of one of the many Bishop Baraga boards, we are asking that you be present this Wednesday, 9/22/21, at our Annual ALL Boards meeting. The intent of this meeting is to update and inform all boards on some changes this year, as well as prepare for our re-opening celebration that will take place next month. A separate email will be sent out this week once all meeting details have been worked out.

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind:

September 22nd - ALL Boards Meeting 6 pm
September 23rd - Education Foundation Meeting
September 26th - BBCS Golf Outing
October 2nd - St. Jude's Bike-a-thon

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COVID Update

- Thank you to all of the students this week that were so very cooperative and respectful about wearing masks. Your cooperation was well noted and very much appreciated by your teachers. Also, thank you parents for encouraging your students to be diligent about wearing their mask and supporting our mask rule when in the school.
- One of the circumstances of the coronavirus that we will be battling throughout this year is the rules to follow when a student is exposed to COVID-19. This will sometimes involve a student having to quarantine based on certain guidelines. In order to provide you with transparency on how we will be making decisions, I have attached the resource provided by the Health Department that outlines what to do if a student is exposed to COVID-19. Of course we will continue to stay current on the most recent updates that are given to us, but in the meantime, we will do our best to make decisions that are best for our students and staff. We greatly appreciate your support and willingness to work with us regarding any type of quarantine situation that may come up.
- In the event that your child does have to quarantine, teachers will be rolling out their google classrooms in the coming weeks. Each teacher will have a google classroom that will provide students with supplemental work that students can access during quarantine to stay up to pace. As teachers introduce students to technology in the next few weeks, there will be more communication from your teacher as to how your students can access their google classroom. Learning packets will also be an option for students, especially younger students that are less proficient with technology.
- Lastly, we ask that as we work towards ensuring that our students are safe, continuing to learn at a high level, and can continue hosting in-person learning, that you be as transparent as possible with us regarding any COVID-19 related issues that may impact the wellbeing of our students and staff. Please know that all information you provide to us will remain completely confidential. Your help in the matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for all of your support and cooperation thus far. Looking forward to a great second week!

Mr. Closs
Principal



***LEARNING TODAY,
LEADING TOMORROW***