

2020 - 2021
School Year
September 18,
2020

THE Grayson GAZETTE



Grayson Elementary's Vision Statement

Grayson is a place where:

Everyone is
SAFE
and
EMPOWERED

Differences are
RESPECTED

Success is
EXPECTED

Dear parents,

In just the first three weeks, the 2020-2021 school year has been extraordinary. On behalf of the Grayson staff and I, we appreciate your kindness, understanding, and patience as we navigate this ever-changing situation. We understand your challenges as you support learning from home and are thankful for all you are doing. Your partnership with us throughout this challenging time has been incredible!

Teachers have been working on plans to ensure a smooth transition as we soon move from just a half-hour a day Meet to a full-day schedule. Moving from a truncated schedule to a more full-day program may not have much turn-around time as we desire to go full-time as quickly as possible. These are the things we are doing to ensure a smooth transition for our Grayson families:

- Teacher email to parents (9/16) that includes a Week-at-a-Glance document. Parents and students can see what a full-week plan will look like (once the directive is given) and prepare for the rigor's increase.
- Encore teachers have provided 30-minute lessons on their Google Classrooms for students to complete at their convenience. Lessons are updated on Wednesdays until we go to a full-day schedule. Then, encore classes will have specific times, as indicated on the teacher's Week-at-a-Glance.

I have received great feedback from parents about the challenges of educating your child at home in the past few weeks. (I am familiar with the challenges myself, as both my husband and I are educators, and our son thinks we pretty much know nothing.) In response to this need, remote teachers will make office hours available to parents starting next week.

CONTINUED MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL!

The purpose of this time is to provide a layer of support for parents who need help with how to assist their child with school work. Look for a teacher email next week for more information on this exciting new addition to our parent/teacher partnership.

Lastly, whether we are remote, virtual, or in-person, the Read by Grade Three Law requirements still apply. Each student must take benchmark reading and math tests in the first few weeks of school. We have been working hard to alleviate any challenges that parents may face while proctoring their child's NWEA test. Look for email from your child's teacher with details on your testing session. NWEA testing dates are on pg. 3 of this newsletter.

Take care everyone!

Warmly,

Kelly Suchanek, Ed.S.
Interim Principal
Grayson Elementary

From our PTO...

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! The Grayson PTO would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new and returning families to the Gator community.

Due to the current pandemic safety measures, this year will certainly look very different. Part of that includes the PTO being unable to hold our normal events and activities under the governor's MI Safe Start plan. Aside from holding a few Virtual Meetings (dates TBD), we do not know when, how or to what extent our involvement will include this year. We really hope as the year progresses to see that improve.

We have several ways for you to stay updated with information and stay actively involved in supporting us. We post frequently on our Facebook page and welcome you to follow us and interact there. You can find us at www.facebook.com/graysonelementarypto.

There are also a few easy ways you can show financial support to the Grayson PTO through:

AmazonSmile <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-1984441>

Supporting Charity: Grayson Elementary PTO

Digital Boxtops App
<https://www.boxtops4education.com/>
School ID: 166484
Supporting: Grayson Elementary School

Kroger Community Rewards
www.krogercommunityrewards.com
Organization Number AL161
Supporting Organization: David Grayson PTA

Thank you for supporting the PTO and please share these simple fundraising options with your friends and family!

Mark Your Calendars!

District Calendar At-A-Glance – click [here](#).

- ❖ September 25 – [Meal Pick-up Service](#)
- ❖ September 28 – Coats For Kids survey due
- ❖ October 1 – Board of Education Meeting
- ❖ October 2 – Meal Pick-up Service
- ❖ October 7 – Student Count Day
- ❖ October 9 – Meal Pick-up Service
- ❖ October 15 – Board of Education Meeting
- ❖ October 16 – Meal Pick-up Service

Coats For Kids is offering coats to Grayson students in need. If you cannot provide a winter coat for your child this year, please fill out the survey below. **Surveys are due by 4:00 pm on September 28th.** **Coats For Kids** will do their best to provide as many coats, hats, and gloves to Grayson kids this winter.

[Survey in English](#)

[Survey in Spanish](#)

NWEA Reading & Math Tests @1:00pm

- ❖ 9/21 3rd Grade Reading
- ❖ 9/22 2nd Grade Reading
- ❖ 9/23 1st Grade Reading
- ❖ 9/24 K (A-L) Reading
- ❖ 9/25 K (A-L) Reading
- ❖ 9/29 4th Grade Reading
- ❖ 9/30 5th Grade Reading
- ❖ 10/5 3rd Grade Math
- ❖ 10/6 2nd Grade Math
- ❖ 10/7 1st Grade Math
- ❖ 10/8 K (A-L) Math
- ❖ 10/9 K (A-L) Math
- ❖ 10/13 4th Grade Math
- ❖ 10/15 5th Grade Math

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING!



Virtual small group reading instruction is starting next week. This practice is new for everyone; teachers, students, and parents. As with anything new, it takes time to work out logistics and a little trial and error as we enhance our practice. Please allow us some grace. It is our goal to be fully up and running the week of 9/28. If you have any questions or concerns as we proceed, please contact the interim principal directly or your child's teacher. Thank you!