Dear Grand Peak Academy Families,

Welcome Back! We hope you are finding a new routine with school starting. This is our first newsletter of the school year and contains quite a bit of information; we highly encourage you to read it in its entirety so you are sure not to miss anything. As always, we will continue to update you with any changes that may occur before the next monthly newsletter.

Family Handbook

Grand Peak Academy asks that each family read through our 2020-21 Family Handbook and complete the Acknowledgement forms, which are digital this year; one form will need to be completed for each student, not per family. We ask that you please have this completed by September 15th.

- Family Handbook
- Acknowledgement Forms

Carpool

The carpool process flows much smoother and safer with the cooperation of our families. Some general rules of carpool are:

- Please refrain from cell phone use while in the carpool lanes.
- Students should exit/enter on the passenger side of your vehicle.
- Please pull up as close to the next vehicle in line to allow more vehicles in the carpool lane on campus.
- Please keep your speed down to ensure the safety of families and students who walk.
- Oldest will go to the youngest sibling’s place in the carpool.

Arrival and Dismissal starting week of Aug. 31:

*Due to the addition of our in-person 3rd-5th grade students starting school on Monday, August 31, the carpool stacking lanes will be shifted starting on Monday. Please pay close attention to the new grade designations for the stacking lanes. The far 2 lanes will be designated for Kindergarten pick up, the 3rd lane will be designated for 1st grade pick up, the 4th lane will be designated for 2nd grade pick up, and the 5th and 6th lanes will be designated for 3rd-5th grader pick up. Please go to the lane of your youngest student’s grade. Thank you for your patience on Monday as we get everyone into a new routine for Arrival and Dismissal.
**Morning Drop-Off Locations:**
- K/1st/5th: Drop off in front of school/gate by Kindergarten playground
- 2nd/3rd/4th: Main entry doors

**After School Pick-Up Locations:**
Kindergarten through Fifth-grade teachers will bring their class outside for dismissal. If you are in a car, please make the carpool lane your first choice. We have added additional staff to ensure a safe and speedy dismissal process in all locations. We will utilize the stacking lanes at the entrance for cars. Each lane will be labeled with the grade level. Parents will go to the youngest siblings’ lane and pick up location; students with younger siblings will meet outside. Signs will be labeled with grade-levels on posts along the sidewalk. Students who are “walkers” will be released by the teacher as classes go outside for carpool (please see below for the definition of a walker); a walker release form must also be completed which can be found [here](#). There are different colored bright signs on the sidewalk posts that indicate grades.
- Information specifically for K and 1st grade car riders:
  - When the car exits the stacking lanes, please stay to the left and use the left through-lane to get around the traffic to your designated pick up area. When you reach the designated pick up area, you can pull over into the right lane for pick-up.
  - Kindergarten (lime green signs): will exit through the main entry doors to the area next to the main playground
  - 1st Grade (neon yellow signs): will exit out of the K/1/5th doors and line up inside the kindergarten playground
  - 2nd Grade (neon pink signs): will exit through the main entrance and walk down past the Pre-K area and line up at the designated area
  - 3rd/4th Grade (bright blue signs): will exit through the main entrance and walk down past the Pre-K area and line up at the designated area
  - 5th Grade (bright blue signs): will exit out of the K/1 doors by the kindergarten playground and walk down past the Pre-K entrance to the designated area

**Visitors/Volunteers**
All visitors/volunteers **MUST** check-in through the front office and present a state-issued drivers’ license that will be scanned through our visitor management system, RAPTOR. You will be given a visitor badge which must be worn on an area that is clearly visible. However, as a reminder, right now while we are dealing with COVID and trying to manage our cohorts, GPA is not allowing visitors or volunteers in the building. If you need to speak with your child’s teacher, we highly encourage you to call the front office at 719-495-7360 or send an email to your child’s teacher to set up an appointment.

**PowerSchool Parent and Student Portal:**
PowerSchool is GPA’s web-based tool providing real-time insight on student grades, schedules, performance, and attendance. We encourage all of our parents set-up your parent portal account which will allow you
to view any of this information. If you or your child has not set up their accounts, please contact our Registrar, Marcia Billingsley, for your access ID and password.

**Student Attendance**

If your child will be absent or late to school for any reason, you must notify the front office via phone or email prior to 9:00 am. This also applies to our Streaming School Students when your child is unable to join their online classes due to illness or an appointment. You can leave a voice message on the main phone line at (719) 495-7360 or send an email to the following address: attendance@grandpeakacademy.org. If we do not receive an email or phone call, the absence will remain "unexcused". Please also reference our attendance procedures in our Family Handbook on our website: https://www.grandpeakacademy.org/.

**Student Fees**

Grand Peak Academy is a tuition free public charter school, however we do have annual student fees: Fees can be paid on our website here. ALL fees are due no later than October 1st.

Student fees for the 2020-21 school year are:
- K – 5th grade - $65.00
- Middle School - $56.00

Additional Fees:
- Middle school elective fees – various cost based on elective chosen
- Field Trip Polo Shirt (these shirts are required when students attend field trips)
  - $10 youth size
  - $12 adult size

**Lunch Information**

GPA's lunch service is provided by D49. You can find the lunch menu here.

- How to pay for student lunches:
  - Cash
  - check (made payable to Falcon Food Services) can be given to your child's teacher or given to the front office
  - Set up on online account to pay via credit card through Payschools.com; when setting up an account you will need your child's student ID number.
- Apply for free/reduced lunch, [online application](#)

**Jeans for Dreams**
Jeans for Dreams is a Grand Peak Academy annual school-wide fundraiser designed to raise students’ awareness of needs beyond their own and provide them an opportunity to participate in raising funds for the wider community. We want to emphasize the character virtues of responsibility, perseverance, diligence, stewardship, generosity, and compassion.

Jeans for Dreams will take place every Friday throughout the school year. Students and staff are asked to donate $1.00 and wear jeans as a tangible reminder of working toward our goal as a team. While we encourage participation in Jeans for Dreams, it is not required that your child participate every Friday. On Jeans for Dreams Fridays, students will give their $1.00 donation to their teacher.

During Jeans for Dreams Friday, students may substitute jeans for uniform pants, shorts, skirts or jumpers. The rest of the uniform policy as outlined in the Family Handbook must still be maintained. Jeans must be modest and in good condition: no holes, skin-tight, ripped pockets, fraying, dragging or sagging allowed. Jeggings, jean shorts, and jean skirts are not allowed. Spirit wear shirts may also be worn on Jeans for Dreams Fridays. Remember to wear a belt in your belt loops!

**Parents, please encourage your child to earn money at home toward this endeavor by giving them extra chores around the home or by encouraging a gift out of their regular allowance. We encourage parents and students to make a special container or envelope at home where money could be collected until each month’s Jeans for Dreams Fridays. We want to emphasize the character virtues of responsibility, perseverance, diligence, stewardship, generosity, and compassion.**

**Face Mask Reminders**

In order to keep everyone safe, our guidelines state that when on school property, children five and older, and adults must wear a mask both in and outside of the building during arrival and dismissal. This protects you and others while we are together at school.

**Wear a Mask to Protect Others**

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you’re infected with COVID-19 but don’t have symptoms
- Wear a mask in public settings when around people who do not live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart
- Wear a mask correctly for maximum protection
- Don’t put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don’t touch the mask, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Monday, Aug 31st - 3rd - 5th Grade in-person students return
- Friday, Sept 4th - No School, Teacher PD Day
- Monday, Sept 7th - No School, Labor Day
- Friday, Sept 25th - No School, Teacher PD Day
Friday, Oct 9th - No School, Family Conferences