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September 10, 2020

Hello GPA Middle School Families,

As the time nears for us to welcome our middle school students to school *in-person on Monday, September 14th*, I wanted to send along some information. Please take the time to read through it all. *If your child is not returning in-person, please be sure to read the section at the bottom for Streaming Expectations for Students.* Thank you for sticking with us through a very different beginning to a school year. We are doing our best to provide a learning environment safe and conducive for all.

Student Fees:

If you have not paid your student fees, please visit this link to do so:

<https://www.grandpeakacademy.org/make-payment/>

You are able to select the middle school fees option along with any electives your child may be taking. The middle school fees cost \$56 plus any additional costs for electives. Thank you for making sure this is completed! The student fees cover a variety of expenses including supplies and online programs that our teachers use for instruction. Most of the items have already been purchased so that teachers could begin the year with their necessary materials, so it is imperative that we collect the money from families to cover what we have already bought for your child's classroom.

Handbook:

If you have not already done so, please read our [GPA 2020-21 Family Handbook](#)

We need acknowledgment of the handbook and a media release for each student. *There is a separate email being sent tomorrow that has Handbook specific information only.*

Masks/Face Coverings:

All middle school students are required to wear a mask/approved face covering while in class and during transitions on campus. Face shields are not an approved face covering. They can only be worn in addition to a mask. Students will be getting several mask breaks throughout the day. If students cannot abide by the mask policy, they will be asked to join Streaming School instead of in-person learning. Masks are required outside as students exit their vehicle because there may

be times the student is within 6 ft. of another student or cohort while transitioning to their destination.

School Supplies:

Middle School students should bring their school supplies on their first in-person day, September 14th. We recommend mechanical pencils instead of wooden pencils. If you have wooden pencils, a personal pencil sharpener is a good tool to carry as well. If you still need to get supplies, the list can be found here:

<https://www.grandpeakacademy.org/parents/>

Arrival/Dismissal:

Arrival:

The doors open at 7:45am and school begins at 8:00am. Please do not arrive before 7:45am. Supervision is not available until 7:45am, and we are also trying to limit gatherings on campus. Upon arrival, students should report directly to their 1st-period class. Middle school students should be dropped off at the front of the school and will walk around the side of the building to the northeast doors for entry.

Dismissal:

For dismissal, K-5 students will not change their current dismissal process. They will continue going to their same dismissal locations. Middle school students will be dismissed at 3:10pm. Middle school will exit through their same arrival doors (northeast side of the building). If they have a younger sibling, they will go to the dismissal location for the younger grade. Some parents who have middle school children meeting up with younger siblings wait until closer to the 3:10/3:15 time before arriving so that middle school and elementary students can be picked up at the same time at the younger child's grade. **If the middle school student does not have an elementary sibling, the student should be picked up using the fire lane behind the school. Please follow signs and directions for middle school pick up using the fire lane behind the school. If your child is a walker and will be leaving campus without an adult, be sure that a walker release form is completed and on file with the office.**

[Walker Release Form](#)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vS2ZH8vJLn_MMGULvv7ChvejpdexguUR8MRXLl17asA/pefill

Lockers:

Students will not be using their lockers at this time. All materials will be kept in the student's backpack. Due to backpacks being full, students should not carry extra supplies or clothing in their bags.

Lunch:

There are no microwaves in the cafeteria. Students should bring a lunch that does not require heating. Because there are a lot of materials that students need to have in their backpack, please have the child's lunch in a separate bag to reduce the damage to Chromebooks and textbooks from lunch spills.

Water Bottles:

Due to COVID guidelines, our water fountains are not working. Students cannot rely on getting a drink from the water fountain at this time; however, the fill stations are still working. Please send a water bottle with your child that has a closed lid. Students can fill their water bottles if needed.

Attendance:

We have had a large number of unexcused absences for middle school students and we are sure that it is due to students being dropped from Google Meets/connectivity issues. We want to get those cleared up for families. Please take a look at your child's absences in their parent portal account through PowerSchool. If there are absences reflected in classes when your child was attending, please send an email to attendance@grandpeakacademy.org or Nicole Parker to have them cleared up. If you do not have a parent portal account and need one, you can email our Registrar, marcia.Billingsley@grandpeakacademy.org.

Cell Phones:

Students may not access their cell phones during the school day. If a child needs to call a parent/guardian during the school day, they are allowed to use our school phones. Also, if you need to give a message to your child, please call our front office and they will deliver the message for you. *From our Handbook: If electronic devices are seen during the day by staff, these devices may be confiscated. When an electronic device is confiscated, it may become the responsibility of the parent to retrieve the device from the school office.*

Chromebooks/Chargers/Headphones:

School Chromebooks that have been checked out to all middle school students are a part of their school materials expected to be *at school every day along with the Chromebook charger and headphones/earbuds*. Students cannot share devices at school due to COVID, therefore, the student is expected to have their own device with them in the building. All middle school classes that are in-person will have students that are joining them from Streaming School. Because of the hybrid situation in all classes, students may need to access their devices during the school day for assignments. All teachers have power strips in their classrooms for students to charge their devices throughout the day. Students need to have their headphones/earbuds with them to lessen the noise distraction

Student Expectations when they are in Streaming School:

If your child is not returning to school in- person and will continue in Streaming School, please review these Streaming School expectations:

Students SHOULD:

- Students should be visible with their camera turned on, unless told otherwise from their teacher.
- Students should engage in their class discussions and be an active participant when appropriate.
- Students should use the chat in an appropriate way.
- Students should communicate with their teachers when they need extra support.
- Students should ask questions when needed.

Students SHOULD NOT:

- Students should not wear hoodies and cover their head/face while they are in their online class.
- Students should not black-out their room while they are in their online class.
- Students should not tape over their camera.
- Students should not dance, make faces or gestures, or perform any other distracting behaviors during their online class.
- At no time, should any student ever video or take pictures of other students in their class.
- Students should not use their cell phone during online class.
- *During live videos is not an appropriate time for parents to express their concerns to teachers. If you have a question or concern for the teacher, please email them privately after class. Teachers will respond when they are able. Teachers are recording their live lessons so please understand that the posted videos are raw and are not edited/produced.*

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at nicole.parker@grandpeakacademy.org or your child's homeroom teacher.

Have a good evening,

Nicole Parker

Middle School Assistant Principal