

Pine Grove Elementary School

410-887-5267

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August 21, 2020

Dear PGE Families,

We are excited to connect with our PGE students for the new school year! Our goal is to create a warm and welcoming virtual learning experience. Teachers will spend a lot of time building relationships with students and helping everyone learn about the technology involved with virtual learning so try not to feel overwhelmed. We will take it step by step. Students' grade level schedules are included with this communication. Class assignments are posted in Schoology. Kindergarten families received a gradual entry schedule in a separate mailing. You may also contact the school for the information at 410-887-5267. With our virtual return to school, students will be using BCPS One, Schoology, and Google Meet throughout the semester. Linked below you will find the following resources to utilize as a guide during virtual learning:

1. [How to create a BCPS One account](#)
2. [Schoology](#)
3. [Accessing Google Meet for Students](#)
4. [Requesting BCPS Technology Support](#)

All parents will be contacted by their child's teacher the week of August 31 - September 4 when students will receive Google Meet codes for joining classes.

The first day of school is September 8 and class meetings begin at 9:05 a.m. Teachers will take student attendance daily and will adhere to traditional grading and reporting procedures as outlined in the [BCPS Grading and Reporting Procedures Manual](#).

Please join us for our *Virtual Meet the Teacher* on Friday, September 4 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The *Virtual Meet the Teacher* will be an opportunity for students to practice joining their Google Meet class sessions using the codes provided by the teachers. This will be an informal opportunity to drop in and meet teachers and other classmates. No formal presentations will be made at this time. Drop in anytime between 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. to say *Hi!*

Our *Virtual Back to School Night* will be Tuesday, September 8 from 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with Session I from 6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. and Session II from 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Teachers at every grade level will offer two sessions that will provide information about virtual classroom expectations, review topics of learning, and answer parent questions. Session II is a repeat of Session I for families with more than one student. School administrators and our PTA will provide a *Welcome Back* video and send a link so it may be viewed at any time. We will send more information to parents the week of August 31 via School Messenger email.

The Pine Grove Elementary School day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Students will participate in whole group and small group lessons throughout the school day. Instruction will occur with teachers in Google Meets (synchronous) and independently (asynchronous) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Teachers will build in multiple break opportunities throughout the day. On Wednesdays, students will work independently or be invited to participate one to one or in a small

group with the teacher in the morning. Wednesday afternoons are for independent work time. If it is an abbreviated school week and schools are closed any of the days, Wednesday will be a regular instructional day. For example, this applies the first week of school because Monday is Labor Day and schools are closed. We begin on a Tuesday, September 8; therefore, Wednesday will be a regular instructional day and follow Monday's schedule.

All school information will be shared with parents via School Messenger email and/or phone call, and Schoology. We will also post information on our school website: <https://pinegrovees.bcps.org/>.

We are fortunate to have faculty that is deeply committed to the Pine Grove Elementary community. While we made a few internal moves, we only have one teacher new to the PGE team: welcome Mrs. Daniels to grade 5! We also welcome, Mrs. Williams to PGE as our new administrative secretary. Changes to our grade level teams include the following:

- Mrs. Rankin moved from kindergarten to grade 1
- Mr. Dunn moved from grade 5 to grade 3
- Mrs. Novotny moved from Makerspace/resource to grade 5 ELA
- Mrs. Berkey moved from Makerspace/resource to grade 5 ELA and resource
- We no longer have a STAT teacher position so our former STAT teacher, Mrs. Spencer, transferred to another BCPS school to work as a reading specialist
- Mrs. Daniels, an experienced teacher, joins our grade 5 team

Many students received Chromebooks during the closure in the spring. Devices will be distributed to all students who did not receive Chromebooks in the spring. These devices may be Chromebooks or HPs. All kindergarten students will receive Chromebooks. We will distribute the devices from the school. There is no need for anyone to request a device because the distribution will be automatic. We will also be providing instructional materials to students. These materials will include phonics and reading materials, and math books and manipulatives. A recommended school supply list is attached. Please note that these supplies will assist your child while working at home and assistance is available for any family that needs help acquiring supplies. **A schedule for distribution of devices and instructional materials is forthcoming.**

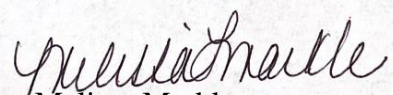
We will continue our focus on helping students demonstrate Panda **PRIDE** by **P**ersevering, **R**especting ourselves and others, **I**magining new ideas, **D**isplaying virtues, and **E**njoying learning! We will continue to focus on building relationships and student proficiency of the grade level standards in reading and math. We will once again be implementing AVID strategies to help all students develop as learners. We are committed to building an equitable environment and promoting kindness, understanding, and anti-racism. We are also determined to maintain our strong family-school connection with the support of our outstanding PTA.

Remember that September 8 is the first day for students. Feel free to contact the school with any questions. Looking forward to an exciting, safe and productive start to the school year! Go Pandas!

Sincerely,



Diane Richmond
Principal



Melissa Markle
Assistant Principal

Recommended School Supplies

2020-2021 School Year

Below are the **recommended** school supplies that will support and benefit your student during remote learning!

Recommended Supplies for <u>ALL</u> PGE Students	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencils• Pencil sharpener• Crayons OR Colored Pencils• Scissors• Glue Stick• Pencil Box/Pouch• Small Dry Erase Board & Dry Erase Marker• Headphones• Bin/Box/Basket to keep all materials organized• Stylus Pen (can only be used with touch screen computers)	
Recommended Supplies for Students in Pre-K & Kindergarten	Recommended Supplies for Students in Grades 1-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 <u>Primary</u> Lined Composition Notebook• Markers• 2- Colored Folders (Yellow and Green)• Index Notecards• One or two tubs of Play-doh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlighter• 3 notebooks:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Green- Math○ Red- Reading○ Yellow- Content• Post-it Notes
Recommended ART Supplies for ALL PGE Students	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sketchbook• Watercolor set with brush• Masking tape• Bottle of glue• Markers• Modeling clay	

If you need assistance obtaining supplies, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Kubala, at kkubala@bcps.org. We are committed to ensuring all families receive the supplies they need.