



Robert J. McGarvey Elementary School

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 2, 2021

Dear Robert J. McGarvey Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I hope this e-mail finds you all rested and relaxed while enjoying a brief but well-earned summer vacation with family and friends. I'm sure most of you are as ready as I am to pack away the last 18 months and start this year with our eyes on a return to normalcy as well as safety. Below are a few important dates/activities coming up in the next couple of weeks:

- **Class lists** will not be posted outside the school office. You should already have received an email from our office team with a letter from me about your child's teacher and track assignment for the upcoming year. Please contact the school office at (916) 793-3400 if you did not receive the email or have questions about your child's assignment for the upcoming school year.
- **Back to School Nights (held before school resumes):**

**Tuesday, July 13** - Tracks B/C/D – Families with children going into Transitional Kindergarten through Sixth grades. Track A - Back to School Night - To be decided.

The evening program is as follows:

4:30pm – 5:30pm	TK/K Back to School Night (in Kindergarten Classrooms)
5:30pm – 5:45pm	Principal's presentation to all parents in MP Room
5:50pm – 6:25pm	Classroom presentation #1 (grades 1-6)
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Repeat of 1-6 grade classroom presentations

**Wednesday, July 14** - Track D – Transitional Kindergarten families will be attending TK Orientation (Meet and Greet) between the hours of 9:00am-1:00pm (families will sign up for a specific time).

**Wednesday, July 14** - Tracks B/C/D – Families with children going into Kindergarten are encouraged to attend their Kindergarten Orientation (Meet and Greet/Round-up) between 9:00am - 1:30pm (families will sign up for a specific time).

- **First Day of School is Thursday, July 15 for Tracks B/C/D.** Please note that our first day of school is also an Early Out Thursday for TK-Sixth grades. First-Sixth grade dismissal time is 2:25pm and for PM Kindergarten classes 2:35pm. **A Track families, your children return on August 16.**
- **Where do students go first thing in the morning on Day 1?** First-Sixth grade students not eating breakfast will line up outside their classroom doors. There are spacing dots outside the classrooms that we will continue to use for the time being. Teacher's names will be posted on the doors for easy reference. All TK and Kindergarten students will meet in their classrooms on the first day of school. Staff members with yellow vests will be around campus to help you determine your child's teacher and room location if needed.
- **Arrival and Dismissal Gates:** We are back to our "normal" morning start time of 8:45am. We will also be back to using our "normal" entrance gates near the office and off Sandpiper Park for all students on arrival and dismissal. We will not be using the Appolon gate near the bus lane for TK or Kindergarten arrivals and dismissals. The front gate will open at 8:15am for all students eating breakfast in the MP Room. The front and

Sandpiper Park gates open for all other students at 8:30am. All gates close at 8:40am after which students will be directed through the office.

- **On Time and All Day, First Day and Every Day:** The first bell rings at 8:40am. All students are lined up outside their classroom doors ready to go into class. The two gates close at this time. Students arriving after the gates close will enter through the main office. Second bell rings and instruction begins promptly at 8:45am. Students arriving as this bell rings or afterward will need to be signed in by a parent in the office and pick-up a late slip. First-Sixth grade dismissal on Early Out Thursdays is 2:25pm. Dismissal is at 3:15pm on regular days.
- **TK and AM Kindergarten schedules** begin at 8:45am and dismiss at 12:16pm every day.
- **PM Kindergarten** begins at 11:34am and dismisses at 3:15pm on regular days. Dismissal is at 2:35pm on Early Out Thursdays.
- **Tie Dye Tuesdays, Where Will We Go/College Wear Wednesdays, and Spirit Wear Fridays** are back!
- **Continuing Health Safety Precautions:**
  - Masks are required for students and adults while indoors unless there is a medical alternative in place. Masks are not required outdoors for adults or students. All individuals on campus may wear masks.
  - We will continue to have students wash hands after morning and lunch recesses as well as encouraging frequent hand washing during the day. Hand sanitizer will be available upon arrival to school in the morning. Masks for students who need them will also be available in the office.
  - Our Health Assistant will be on campus daily. We will continue with our COVID protocols when students don't feel well. If you have questions about the protocols, please contact our office.
  - We will allow students to eat lunches outdoors when temperature, weather, and air quality cooperate. Indoor lunches, when we have them, will take place one grade level at a time.
  - We will resume Friday Morning Assemblies but they will be held outdoors on Friday mornings as weather permits.

Finally, as we get set to begin the 2021-2022 school year, we are excited to continue our #WonderfulGriffins campaign. For those new to our school, this means that every student and staff member at all grade levels will be introduced to the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio or to one of the Wonder-related titles like *We're All Wonders*, *365 Days of Wonder*, or *Auggie & Me*. *Wonder* is about a boy named Auggie; a 10-year-old with a facial deformity. Over the course of the story, Auggie and other characters realize what it means to be a friend, how to practice kindness, and realize the power of resilience. McGarvey students and staff will engage in classroom and school wide activities that promote a culture centered on the idea that "we are all wonders." We already have a wonderful school community, with an emphasis on "unity." *Wonder* will provide the McGarvey community – students, families, faculty, and staff - a common lens through which to build character. As a school community, we take pride in our unique identities and celebrate our differences while building our unity around the idea that together we are wonder-full and SOAR to incredible heights.

It is an honor to join in partnership with our families, students, and staff in moving RJMES to exceptional levels of success. I am excited as we begin our fifth year in our Griffin community journey. I look forward to building new relationships, strengthening existing ones, and serving your family in any way I can. **We are excited about the coming school year and look forward to seeing everyone soon! The McGarvey office opens officially on Monday, July 12, 8:00am-4:00pm.** Our school phone number is 916-793-3400 or contact Patte Grinnell, Secretary ([pstaring@egusd.net](mailto:pstaring@egusd.net)), Will Jones, Vice Principal ([whjones@egusd.net](mailto:whjones@egusd.net)), or Mike Gulden, Principal, ([mgulden@egusd.net](mailto:mgulden@egusd.net)) with any questions.

Looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and meeting new families!

Respectfully,

Michael Gulden