



Dear Grass Lake Middle School students, parents and guardians,

August 2021

We can't wait to begin the year and see all the kiddos and get back to doing what we love: educating and building relationships with our students!! I would like to wish a warm welcome to our incoming sixth graders and their families. I am looking forward to working with you for the next three years. I also would like to welcome our new students and their families to GLMS. Finally, welcome back to all our returning GLMS families, it is going to be a great year of both academic and emotional growth as well as teamwork. Please see the attached welcome from Mrs. Thornton, our new Social Worker.

There will be a virtual option for those students that qualify. Families **must** fill out the Virtual Learning Application. Students will need to have medical documentation and written information stating a need to be virtual or have been a successful virtual student last year. The virtual instruction will be done using Edgenuity, <https://www.edgenuity.com/solutions/middle-school/>. Virtual students will only be enrolled in core classes, students and parents will receive an email about username/passwords etc. around August 24th. A Virtual Learning Application will need to be completed and returned to Mrs. Byerly by August 18th. These classes will be semester long and require a semester commitment.

Our schedules are still not done as I am waiting to get all my virtual students enrolled in those classes and taken out of the Face to Face sections and then balance class sizes as much as possible. My hope is that students will be able to see their schedules in PowerSchool on August 20th. We will be printing off one copy for each student that their first hour teachers will hand out on the first day.

We will not be having a traditional Back To School Night this year. Back to School Night is only for 6th graders and new students and those that were virtual last year. There will be a short 6th Grade Meeting at 6:00 in the gym. Chromebooks and New Usernames and Passwords will be distributed in the cafeteria for those attending Back To School Night.

Electronics:

Student phones are to be kept in the lockers at all times, including lunch. All parents and students must sign the Technology Acceptable Usage Policy. Students will be held accountable to these guidelines. We will be collecting Insurance forms and money and distributing Chromebooks and chargers on August 18th from 8AM -3:00PM and August 19th from 12:00-7:00 for 7th and 8th graders. August 23rd from 5:00-7:00 for sixth graders. Pick up will be in the Cafeteria. Mrs. Brown will be sending out more concise directions on this soon.

School Day Schedule:

School begins at 7:30 and ends at 2:30 this year. The building will not be open until 7:20 for students to enter. Students will be dismissed from the busses at 7:25. Breakfast will be free and is available to **all** students in the cafeteria as soon as students enter the building. Students will need to be picked up by 2:40.

Lockers: 6th graders will not be issued lockers until the beginning of October. This will allow time for teachers to practice unlocking them together. 6th grade students will be keeping their bag or materials in the classroom during lunch. 7th and 8th graders will only be going to their lockers before and after school, before and after lunch (everything remains in their lockers at lunch, no books, phones etc.). Students will not be going to lockers between classes.

What to do on the first day: All 7th and 8th grade students will go to their lockers and head immediately to their first hour classroom. 6th graders will head straight to their first hour classrooms.

Important Note for Parents of Students Requiring Medication at School:

Regulations regarding school personnel dispensing medications to students require that all medications must be brought in by the parent and must be in the original container and accompanied by a completed medication form. This includes acetaminophen, ibuprofen, cough medicine, etc. Under no circumstances will we dispense medication unless the proper form is filled out by a parent and the medication is in its original container. Forms are available in the office and on our website. New forms and new medication need to be brought in each year.

Lunches/Breakfasts:

Lunch and Breakfast will be free this year for all students. We are asking that you please complete and submit online at lunchapp.com as soon as possible to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our Students. This form needs to be filled out each year and is kept anonymous. Please consider filling this out. Each grade level will have their own lunches: 6th grade will eat 11:05-11:35, 7th grade 10:25-10:55, and 8th grade 12:05-12:35.

Dress Code:

Skirts and shorts must extend beyond the tip of thumb when the student extends his/her arms down. Holes in jeans should also be below this length. See-through clothing is not allowed. All tops must have sleeves. Tank tops, low cut shirts, and bare midriffs are not allowed. Lastly, no hats, hoods, or sunglasses are to be worn inside the school. Please see the complete dress code in the Code of Conduct found on the website.

Attendance:

Students should stay home if they are feeling ill at all. Please monitor your child if they complain of not feeling well. If your child has an appointment and needs to leave early, please call or email in the morning to let us know and we will have him or her in the office at that time. When picking up your child, please pull up out front, call 517-867-5551. Let us know you are here, what car you are driving in and we will visually check that you are here. We will then sign your child out and send your student out to you.

Schoology:

Schoology is the Learning Management System that all Face to Face Students will be using. Mrs. Sherwood, sarah.sherwood@grasslakeschools.com will be creating parent and student videos to help parents get set up and know how to use it. If you have any tech questions for PowerSchool or Schoology, Mrs. Sherwood is the person to contact.

Emails

One of the best ways we communicate with parents is via email. Mrs. Brown will be sending information regularly. Please be sure your email is correct on the Enrollment update form and if you have a change or additional address you'd like to use to receive emails please send that information to kim.brown@grasslakeschools.com. Please call Mrs. Brown at (517) 867-5551 if you do not have email of any kind so she can make sure you get paper copies of information.

Sports:

Fall sports, Volleyball (7th/8th), Football (7th/8th), Sideline Cheer (6-8th), and Cross Country (6-8th) will all begin practice on August 30th. More information will come from the coaches. Updated physicals (after April 15th 2021) are required for all athletes. We will be adding the current sports forms to our Middle School portion of the website as we receive them. You may contact the athletic secretary directly at launa.steinhauer@grasslakeschools.com.

If you have any questions please contact me at (517)867-5555, or my email is jeanene.Byerly@grasslakeschools.com.

Sincerely,
Jeanene Byerly, Grass Lake Middle Principal