

Columbia Splash



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Hello Columbia Families and welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

I really hope this letter finds you healthy and having had some opportunity to enjoy your summer break. It feels so good to be reaching out to all of you and sharing some important information to get this year started. Please know, we are here for all of you and committed to the Bellingham Promise! A major emphasis this year is connecting to and supporting our families. We are excited to get to know your hopes, dreams, and concerns in starting this new school year.

I have spoken to many of you over the last few months with important questions about timing, logistics, equity, and access to learning opportunities. I am so impressed with the level of care, advocacy, and understanding in our Columbia community -it is inspiring! I have also been grateful for all the care and concern you have shown to our teachers as they prepare to provide the best learning experience possible for our students.

This summer has been a busy one. We have had 46 committees and over 300 staff members working on our district reopening plan. This year is definitely going to feel different, look different, and continue to change as we learn and grow together. Columbia staff are engaging all next week in planning and preparing for the start of school on September 8th.

Here is what to expect in the week to come:

- Emails are going out to all families to share who their student's teacher will be for this year. We are going to work hard to maintain our classroom assignments and also know we might need to adjust class lists as we get an accurate count of students during the first week of school
- Next week, your student's classroom teachers will be sending out a video introducing themselves and welcoming their students and families to school
- Next week, teachers will be reaching out to all of their families to make a personal connection and to set up a time to have a longer conversation over the next two weeks. The purpose of the connection is to get to know your family better and support your needs
- On Tuesday, September 1st, you are invited to attend a live Zoom Columbia family information meeting. The meeting will take place at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be recorded and put on our Columbia School home page for future reference. You will be receiving a Zoom invite through SchoolMessenger (email) soon.

I hope you can pack a little more family fun into this last week of summer break. I am looking forward to seeing our students back at school starting Tuesday, September 8th!

Aaron

Please email Columbia's Administrative Assistant at Michele.Foster@bellingshamschools.org with any questions or needs you might have.

CONTINUE READING



DAILY SCHEDULE:

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE (K-2)



8:00-8:30	Prepare for your day
8:30-9:00	Live Morning Meeting
9:00-10:45	Family Choice: Learning engagement, family meeting, small group instruction with teacher or outside time
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-11:30	Live Learning
11:30-12:00	Lunch
12:00-1:00	Family Choice: Learning engagement, P.E., library, music, friendship club
1:00-1:30	Live Learning
1:30-1:45	Break
1:45-3:00	Work Time (play-based learning)

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE (3-5)



8:00-8:30	Prepare for your day
8:30-9:00	Live Morning Meeting/Social Emotional Learning
9:00-9:50	Live Learning - Academic Block #1
9:50-10:00	Break
10:00-10:50	Live Learning - Academic Block #2
10:50-11:00	Break
11:00-11:50	Live Learning - Academic Block #3
11:50-12:30	Recess/Lunch
12:30-3:00	Teacher/Family created learning block: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family meeting • Small group instruction • Independent practice • Music/P.E./Library/Specialists

Kindergarten and 1st Grade:

In early learning, we believe and value building strong relationships with students and families, which we will be doing throughout the month of September. Here's what to expect:

- A weekly family conference to start to build that relationship (approx. 1 hour) via Zoom or phone
- A September learning calendar with experiences to engage in with your child at home
- Daily connection videos from your classroom teacher

Throughout the month of September, we will ensure basic needs are met and that you have access to the short connection videos. Our teachers are ready and excited to meet your family and attend to what your family hopes and dreams are for your child.

CONTINUE READING

2nd through 5th Grade:

Your first day of live learning will be September 8th. This next week you will be receiving a phone call/email from your child's teacher with information necessary for the first day of school. Teachers are very excited to meet their new students, get to know one another, and set the routine for learning in a remote setting.

School Supply Distribution - September 2nd

We will be distributing school supplies through a pick-up process on Wednesday, September 2nd. Classroom teachers will be available to meet their new students and pass out supplies (See schedule below). Although we would love to have a face to face connection with every family, we also know some of you might not be able to make the pick-up time. We will keep track of who does not show up and reach out to you to identify how we can get the supplies distributed to you.

IMPORTANT:

Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of separation at all times - There will be cones spread out six feet apart.

Adults and students need to wear a mask at all times.

Schedule for Wednesday, September 2nd:

5th Grade: 10:00 Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Wiederhold, and Mrs. Dalvit (all students)

4th Grade: 11:00 Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Welch

3rd Grade: 12:00 Ms. Davis, Mrs. Pevonak, and Mr. Bishop

2nd Grade: 1:00 Mrs. Pittis and Ms. Dierdorff

1st Grade: 2:00 Mrs. Colby, Mr. Jacobs, and Mrs. Goette (all students)

Kindergarten: 3:00 Mrs. DeGolier and Mrs. Quigley

TECHNOLOGY: Last spring, we provided devices for students in grades K-5 upon request.

If you have a device, please bring it to school during the supply distribution on September 2nd.

This year, **students in grades PreK, K, and 1** will receive district-issued iPads by early October. We will communicate distribution plans after school starts.

Students in grades 2-3 will receive laptops to begin the school year. Again, students should return any laptop they received last spring when they pick up their new device at supply pick-up on September 2nd.

Students in grades 4-5 will bring their device to school on September 2nd and update their laptops during supply distribution. This just means you walk onto the school grounds, power up the laptop, restart it, make sure you are connected to the Columbia network, log in, and shut down. Don't worry about remembering all of this - we will have staff onsite to help you through each step.

To summarize, if you have a device, bring it! You will either turn it in when you pick up your new device (2nd and 3rd grade) or update your device (4th and 5th).

FOOD SERVICES:

**MONDAY
MEALBOXES
EXTENDED
THROUGH
AUGUST!**



Pick up fresh and shelf-stable items
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
on Mondays Aug. 17, 24 and 31
at our 15 summer locations.

New distribution model begins Sept. 9.



Free and Reduced Lunch Application Link:

<https://www.smore.com/app/reporting/button/v0zn2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbellinghamschools.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F08%2FFreeReducedPriceMealApplication.pdf&t=Free%20or%20Reduced%20Price%20Meal%20Application%20Form&w=w-7851641547&i=&l=>