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Principal - Thelina O'Daniel Head Secretary - Amoreana Collins Secretary - Tracy Junk

Gresham-Barlow School District's Mission:

Every student prepared for a lifetime of learning, career opportunities, and productive contributions to the community

September 2, 2020

Dear Powell Valley Families,

Welcome back to the 2020 - 2021 school year! While this will not be a conventional school year and there are still a lot of uncertainties; I am certain that with positivity and flexibility we will make this an outstanding year for our students and families. I will be recording a video of myself for all of you so you can see who I am and get to know me better. I will push that link out soon! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and learning about things that you love at Powell Valley Elementary School. I will be offering a virtual coffee chat with the Principal once the school year gets going-please be on the lookout for that link in early October. Even though distance learning has many barriers to building relationships, I am determined to make it a high priority.

The Gresham-Barlow School District and Powell Valley Elementary School are committed to providing the best online education we can by utilizing the Canvas Learning Management System. This system will better align our efforts K-12. However, this system will not be ready to go during the first two weeks of school. Students in K-2 will start out using Seesaw and students in grades 3-5 will use Google Classroom. Additional information from the school district and your child's teacher will be forthcoming.

Key Dates and Details:

- ❖ Online learning begins for students on 9/14/2020
- ❖ Attendance will be taken daily
- ❖ Teachers will be reaching out to all of you next week on Thursday and Friday September 10th and 11th in the afternoon. Their phone number may come up as "unknown" or "blocked". If you do not pick up, the teacher will leave a short message. Please watch for these calls.
- ❖ Device distribution continues next week. You can check out a device at one of the following locations: Hall Elementary, North Gresham Elementary, East Gresham Elementary, and Powell Valley Elementary between the hours of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9. Devices must be checked out by a parent/guardian and you will need your child's student ID number. You can find the student ID number on ParentVue.

Gresham-Barlow School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of this district and the board of education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups in any educational programs, activities or employment. Gresham-Barlow provides equal access to individuals with disabilities.



In addition to providing each student with a computer, we will have an opportunity for families to pick up additional materials that can be used at home to help with Comprehensive Distance Learning. Students will get the following additional materials: individual whiteboard, whiteboard marker, Journeys Reading textbook, Ready Math textbook, Ready Math student workbook, and a response card. At any time the teacher may need students to use these materials, so it is vital that you pick them up at Powell Valley Elementary School. More information will be coming out as these dates get closer. Below is the pick up schedule:

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade - September 22nd between 4:15 pm - 7:15 pm
- 2nd & 3rd Grade - September 23rd between 4:15 pm - 7:15 pm
- 4th & 5th Grade - September 24th between 4:15 pm - 7:15 pm

If your child is in Mr. Parks class you will pick up only on 9/22/20

If you have multiple children, please just come on the day of your oldest child and you will be able to pick up these materials for your younger children. This will be a drive up service, so no need to get out of the car. We want to make sure this is easy for parents.

As we start Comprehensive Distance Learning this year, we will be providing more structure to maximize teaching and learning. Your child will be asked to log in to live sessions with their teacher three-times a day 8:30, 10:30, and 12:30. These sessions will be recorded in case your child is not able to attend one of these sessions. The rest of the day will be recorded/asynchronous lessons that teachers will push out to families to watch as your schedule allows. This schedule is meant to provide additional educational opportunities for your child.

Some things to consider when looking at this general schedule are the following:

- Students **will not** be expected to be physically present, **though highly recommended**, during the live instruction, these sessions will be recorded for families that need to watch them at a later time.
- Students **will not** be online 100% of the day, students will be able to break away from the computer during parts of the small group instruction and applied learning times.
- Students **will** also have access to Music, Physical Education, and Social Emotional Learning throughout the week
- Students who receive Special Education, SLP, or ELD services **will** still receive those services throughout the week. Those teachers will reach out about individual schedules.

I look forward to seeing all of your child's faces online! We will get through this year together as a team!

Go Panthers!!

Kind Regards,

Thelina O'Daniel, Principal

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