



Grand Ridge Grade School

NEWSLETTER

Week of Oct. 4 - 10, 2020

400 W. Main Street
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

Ted Sanders, Supt. — Terry Ahearn, Principal
"Large enough to educate you, small enough to know you."

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A Few Words from the Superintendent

"The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people, and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain its sovereign control over its government."—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Fireside Chat [April 14, 1938]

I hope all is well with you and yours. As we enter into the colder months of fall we are waiting in hopeful anxiety for what is to come. The latest COVID-19 numbers at the time of this report have LaSalle County at a **7-day test positivity rate of 5.4%**. Based on the information we sent out last week, that rate has been steady to slightly lower. However, we do expect those numbers to begin to increase throughout the month. If we hit the 8% mark sustained for 2 or more weeks or increasing, we will have to listen to guidance from IDPH for remote learning full days. We are hoping that this doesn't occur, but parents and school officials must be prepared if this becomes the case. **Please continue to read our newsletter, Teacher Ease emails, and check our website www.grgs95.org for continued updates and information.**

Litmus test for school activities:

We have had a few questions from parents regarding school parties, book fairs, and Santa's Secret Shop. While we all want these special events to occur, at this time our administrative team has to ask the tough question, **"Is this an essential activity or a non-essential activity?"**

The essential function of any school district is to provide instruction for students. Our current Hybrid plan has us offering only approximately 3 hours of instruction time after subtracting for mask breaks and transition times, with 2 hours of remote learning in the afternoon. What this shows is that even with multiple safety measures in place, we are still only able to safely provide half of the instruction we would normally provide during the course of the day at the present rate.

With these facts, we will be asking ourselves if these supplementary events are in fact essential. Where it is possible, and where guidance from IDPH allows us, we will look at offering certain special events such as a class party or Santa's Secret Shop. However, if it is not in alignment with our current guidance, then we will have to cancel those events. As much as we all wish to move on and continue having these fun events, we also know that our essential function is to provide students instruction. Each decision will be discussed thoroughly by administrative staff, data will be reviewed, and an answer will be given to parents as soon as possible based on the current COVID-19 numbers and guidance from IDPH.

At the present time, we are still not allowing visitors into the building, so classroom parties would have to be run entirely by the teacher. Any snacks that would be allowed would have to meet rigorous requirements to prevent the spread, and must be individually wrapped. As we approach the end of the month and Halloween, we will be in touch with you regarding the potential for allowing a party.....but again, it would be for treats only and no visitors.

The way we have to look at this is that if we are unable to offer a full day of instruction, and sports have been postponed due to safety issues, it is difficult to allow extra activities. It is hard for all of us. It is our goal to decrease chances of contracting or spreading COVID-19. We want things to be normal again for our kids. But until it is deemed safe, we must protect everyone while asking, **"Is this an essential activity or a non-essential activity?"**

Have a Great Week!!

Calendar of Events

Mon. Oct. 5 - 11:50 Dismissal

Tues. Oct. 6 - 11:50 Dismissal




Wed. Oct. 7 - 11:50 Dismissal
PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Thur. Oct. 8 - 11:50 Dismissal

Fri. Oct. 9 - 11:50 Dismissal



Special Birthdays

Oct. 4 	Oct. 5 Claire Trager	Oct. 6 Mrs. Woodyer	Oct. 7 Lane Harcharik	Oct. 8 	Oct. 9 Brayden Batastini	Oct. 10 
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****PLEASE NOTE:**

MENU IS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITH
AVAILABILITY**

Breakfast & Lunch Menu

	Monday Oct. 5	Tuesday Oct. 6	Wednesday Oct. 7	Thursday Oct. 8	Friday Oct. 9
Breakfast Menu	Honey Bunny Yogurt Fruit Juice	Cereal PB Toast Fruit Juice	Cereal Pop Tart Fruit Juice	Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice	Cereal Bar Yogurt Fruit Juice
Lunch Menu	Uncrustable PB&J Vegetable Juice Chips & Salsa Fruit Cheese Curds Milk	Chicken Wrap Cherry Tomatoes Fruit Pudding Milk	Bosco Bread Stick w/ Marinara Sauce Cucumber Coins w/ Ranch Fruit Milk	Uncrustable PB&J Yogurt Veggie Fruit Fritos Milk	Ham & Cheese Croissant Carrots w/ Hummus Fruit Cheetos Milk