

Westridge Wildcat

P W PRINTS

August 2020

[TUES & WED] **Aug 4 & 5**

New Student Registration

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

[TUESDAY] **Aug 4**

PTO Meeting via Zoom

6:30 PM

[FRIDAY] **Aug 14**

Student Mask Pick-up

8:00 AM- 1:00 PM

[MONDAY] **Aug 17**

Kindergarten Open House

See schedule: p.2

[THURSDAY] **Aug 18**

First Day of School!!

[TUESDAY] **Sept 1**

PTO Meeting via Zoom

6:30 PM

[Monday] **Sept 7**

No School- Labor Day

Westridge Elementary Mission Statement:

In an effort to create life-long learners, the staff at Westridge Elementary School working closely with parents and community strives to realize each child's fullest potential in the areas of personal, social, intellectual, emotional, and physical development.

Dear Westridge Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. As we all know, this year is going to be different than any other school year that we have ever experienced. Now more than ever, we will need to support our children and our Westridge family. Our teachers, support staff, custodians, and I will do our very best to ensure our students are safe, while continuing to develop strong relationships and challenge them academically. We know that our students, even though they are young, are strong and resilient. I am always impressed with the things that our Westridge Wildcats are capable of. I have had the privilege of being the principal at Westridge Elementary for the last four years. I know this staff. I know our students. I know our families and our community. We can do this! We can provide a safe learning environment and still continue to push our students academically and socially. One of my favorite quotes is "It is always impossible until it's done." by Nelson Mandela. I am excited to start another school year, and I can't wait to see everyone again!

We have one last staffing change to announce for the 20-21 school year. Unfortunately, Mrs. Mjestrik did retire at the end of the 19-20 school year. We will miss Mrs. Mjstrik very much and wish her the very best in her retirement. Beckie Stigge will be replacing her in 1st grade this year. Mrs. Stigge was a go to substitute teacher for the district last year. We are very excited that she will be joining our teaching staff. Also, Miss Shook got married over the summer and is now Mrs. Maliszewski.

For this month's newsletter, I have included several topics that will be important for the start of this school year. Please read through each topic carefully. If you have other questions you can always call the school office at 402-289-2559 or email me at rbroshar@epsne.org.

**Registration:**

Detailed registration information will be sent to you via email on August 4th. This process replaces the paper forms sent home at the beginning of each school year. You will use the PowerSchool Parent Portal to access the Registration. If you do not receive the email from PowerSchool, or your student no longer attends Elkhorn Public Schools, please contact Westridge Elementary at 402-289-2559 to update your records. Teacher assignments will be available to families in Powerschool on Wednesday, August 12th. Parents will need to login to find this information.

Open House:

Open house and curriculum night for most students and families will be virtual this year. On Friday, August 14th, families will receive email communication from their child's teacher which will include an overview of the grade level curriculum, a video introduction about the teacher and classroom, and a video of how the student will enter the building on the 1st day and get to their new classroom. Families should receive this communication from your child's teacher by 2:00 PM on the 14th. There will NOT be an Open House/Curriculum Night event in buildings on August 13th as originally planned.

New families to the district or building will have an opportunity for a building tour during New Student Registration by appointment on August 4th and 5th.

Kindergarten students will be able to come up and see their classroom on Monday, August 17th. Entry will be limited to the kindergarten student and one parent. Masks will be required. At this time, you may drop off your kindergartner's school supplies, see the classroom, and meet the teacher. To maximize social distancing, please follow this schedule by student LAST name: 2:00 (A-F), 2:30 (G-L), 3:00 (M-R), 3:30 (S-Z). You will enter the building through the main doors and go directly to your child's classroom. Miss Cammarota's classroom is on the main floor. You will proceed straight through the double doors and take a right to her classroom. You will exit out the cafeteria doors. Mrs. Maliszewski and Miss Steele are both on the second floor. You will take the main stairs to their classrooms. Then you will exit the playground doors.

Misc:

The school will be providing each student with two cloth masks and a mask lanyard for students to use. Students will also need to bring a water bottle to school as water fountains throughout the building will not be used. Schools will have water bottle fill stations available. Finally, each student will be provided with a Chromebook and charger by the district. Students will need to be responsible for bringing their computers and chargers to and from school each day. Computers will need to be charged at home overnight daily. There will be more information regarding Chromebooks at a later time.

Mask Pick-up:

On Friday, August 14th between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., we invite you to drive through Westridge to pick up two (2) district-provided masks per child. As a reminder, students must wear masks upon entering the school on the first day, so if you are unable to pick them up on August 14th, please call the office to schedule another pick up time or plan to supply your child with a mask that you have purchased. District-provided masks for students who would like to receive them but are unable to pick them up prior to the first day of school will be sent home with the student on August 18th. Additionally, students may supply and utilize their own masks if preferred.

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Practices/Safety Protocols:

To keep all of our teachers and students safe and healthy, there will be numerous safety protocols and mitigating practices implemented this year. Social distancing of 6 feet will be expected in classrooms when physically possible. If 6 feet cannot be established between individual students, students will be seated in pods of two and socially distanced as the classroom allows. Cleaning will occur throughout the day by the teacher and custodians with district-provided sanitizers. Please do not donate hand sanitizer or Clorox wipes to the classroom teacher. You may send your own child with individual hand sanitizer if you choose to do so. The district is requiring that we use what is provided to each building for consistency. Every class will have a student seating assignment that will be stable and not differentiated throughout the day. Social distancing practices will be utilized as students are moving about the building. Once in the special's class, the seating arrangement will be similar to the classroom. Students will eat in their classrooms and then go to recess. Disinfecting will occur within the classroom while students are at recess. Handwashing will occur frequently throughout the day.

First Day of School:

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all on the first day of school. We ask that parents remain in cars when dropping off even on the first day. Teachers will not be standing outside with signs this year. First through fifth-grade students will enter through their assigned entrance and will walk directly to classrooms. Teachers will be sending videos to families of students in their classroom highlighting which door to enter as well as the path to the classroom. If your child walks to school, feel free to walk them up to the school grounds and then allow them to walk to their assigned entrance on their own. Walking families will need to social distance. Masks are encouraged while outside on school grounds to help model safe behaviors for our students. As a reminder, students must wear masks upon entering the school,

We ask that kindergarten students wait to arrive until 9 AM. Kindergarten teachers will be outside the kindergarten doors with signs. Kindergarten parents may walk their child up to this area to ensure their child gets into the correct line and is socially distanced from others. Kindergarten will dismiss at 2:45 PM the first two days.

Arrival- Drop-off procedures & entering the building:

Students may enter the building as early as 7:55 a.m. daily. Please do not drop students off earlier than 7:55, as they will not be allowed to congregate outside due to social distancing guidelines. Students will proceed directly to their classrooms upon arrival at school. Walking Club will not take place until further notice. To spread students out, please enter through the following assigned door:

- Kindergarten, 4th, and 5th graders- Main Doors
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders- Cafeteria Doors

Children who would like breakfast each day are directed to enter through the cafeteria door beginning at 7:45 a.m. Students will pick up a grab and go breakfast and head to their classroom. The student day will continue to start at 8:10 a.m. with the tardy bell ringing at 8:15 a.m.

**Dismissal Procedures:**

We will be staggering students at the end of the school day to promote social distancing at dismissal time. Students that walk home will be dismissed at 3:00. Students that ride the bus will be dismissed from the classroom at 3:05. Then students that are picked up or go to EKC will be dismissed at 3:06. Students will exit the building at different locations. Kindergarten and 3rd graders will exit the main doors. 1st grade will exit the first grade doors by the blacktop. 2nd grade students will exit the cafeteria doors, and 4th and 5th grade students will exit the 4th grade doors by the playground. As students exit the building, we encourage families to go directly to their next destination to ensure social distancing. Parents that are in the pick-up lane will be asked to remain in their vehicle. Please pull all the way forward to maximize the number of vehicles that can be loaded in the pick-up lane. Parents and families that walk to pick up their child(ren) from school should maintain social distancing while on school grounds. Masks are encouraged while on school grounds to help model safe behaviors for our students.

Screening children at home:

Parents will need to screen their children at home each day for fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, etc. If symptomatic, students will not report to school and parents will need to consult a medical professional. Parents will need to contact the office to report the absence.

Building Visitors and Volunteers:

We appreciate the parental support that our families provide during and outside of the school day. However, in order for Elkhorn Public Schools to limit potential exposure to our students and staff, we are eliminating the use of volunteers in the classrooms and/or school building at this time. This includes visitors during lunch time.

Picture Day:

Lifetouch pictures will be rescheduled later in the fall if possible.

Lunch Accounts:

To make an online lunch deposit, or to set up your online lunch account complete with email notifications, please visit elkhornweb.org and go to the Parent/Student login, and then the drop down labeled LUNCH Account and then access Lunchtime online. You will need your student's PIN # and zip code to their school to set up this account. Deposits made online will be available in your student's account immediately. Please be sure your school has your most current email address so online information can be emailed to you directly. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Food Service Department. More information can be found at <https://www.elkhornweb.org/parents/lunch/>.

Mr. Broshar
Principal
Westridge Elementary