

Poplar School District

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5-8 Principal

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9-12 Principal

406-768-6831

Associate 9-12 Principal

406-768-6832

K-4 Principal

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Associate K-4 Principal

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The mission of Poplar Schools, in cooperation with parents and community, is to develop exemplary citizens through enthusiastic and knowledgeable guidance and instruction in a culturally enriched environment.

Dear Elementary School parents and community,

As we all know we at Poplar Elementary will not have a “normal” start to our year. This correspondence is intended to give you information as to the current status and planning that is going on in our building as we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

To summarize, the School Board met this past Monday and approved a District Re-Opening plan which is the first step in planning how our school year will be starting out. This plan can be found on our school website under Covid-19 resources. Administrators and directors have been and will continue to discuss daily the logistics for what implementing this plan will look like. We are emphasizing that what we want to insure is: **All students have a safe place to learn & All staff have a safe place to work.** This plan was developed and adopted to provide “flexibility and adaptability” should future change be necessary and we will need to continue on-going discussions between our school staff and the community to help define what our “new normal” will look like. **As of today** this is the status report for Poplar Elementary:

Academic Schedule:

- We will be opening under a blended schedule of direct instruction and remote learning. Our designated starting day for instruction in grades 1st – 4th is set for **August 27th**. Due to the need for pre-school screening the designated starting date for kindergarten students is **September 8th**.
- To help promote social distancing within our district and elementary facility a **“Maroon & Gold” schedule** was adopted providing each student with two (2) days of direct classroom instruction per week. Each enrolled student has been designated as either a maroon or a gold student. If a student is a maroon student they will be in the classroom on Mondays and Wednesdays. If a student is a gold student they will be in the classroom on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Friday’s are designated as days to provide individualized student education assistance and for interventions. These will be worked out by each teacher to schedule tutoring options by appointment only.
- Maroon or gold student determination was made by taking each class roster and forming two balanced groups. Once these splits were made for each classroom households were reviewed to help ease transportation issues for families. There are 144 maroon students and 141 gold students.

- On a student's scheduled "off" days (Monday – Thursday) teachers will be able to reach out to students using Google Classroom. The district will be providing training to all staff to accomplish this. The district is working to provide Chromebooks for elementary students and internet into households.
- There is also a **"Remote" option** for students with families that want instruction delivered outside of the school classroom setting. We are currently working on the logistics of what this remote option will look like in the elementary school.

Kindergarten:

- All incoming kindergarten students will need to be registered at the elementary office. Registration materials are currently available from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday. You are required to present the student's birth certificate, immunization records, and any custodial or court documentation if applicable. If your child is an enrolled tribal member, his/her tribal ID is also required. A student must be 5 years old on or before September 10th to register.
- Pre-school screening is required for all incoming kindergarten students. Screening has been scheduled to begin on August 27th and run through September 2nd. To schedule an appointment or for information simply contact the elementary office at 768-6630. Appointment scheduling will begin August 13th and run through August 31st. Masks will be required.

Building/Buses/Cafeteria:

- Public entrances to buildings will be restricted to main entrances. Our two entrances will be the bus entrance to the cafeteria (locked and restricted at 8:45 am each day) and the elementary office main entrance.
- Buses will be at half capacity based on Maroon or Gold scheduled days. They will drop off students at each of the 3 building sites for breakfast. This meal will be delivered at each building site.
- The cafeteria will have the regular lunch schedule times but will have designated tables for each class to promote social distancing.
- There will be an option for a classroom to grab and go a lunch and return to their classroom if they choose.

There will be many questions to be answered as we begin this year so please feel free to contact me at school 768-6631 or via email tom.granbois@poplarschools.com. Remember that things are continually developing each day and I will try and keep you informed as best I can. I am looking forward to a safe and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Tom Granbois
Elementary Principal

