

Welcome Huskies to the 2019/2020 School Year!!

Washington Elementary School

Dear Parents,

First, we would like to welcome all of our new Washington families. Each year our staff and community look forward to welcoming many new faces to our hallways. We hope that each and every new family feels a part of our school and that you will all find ways to become an active member of our school community. Volunteering, attending our parent meetings or joining the school parent organization is a great way to get involved and learn about Washington. We need you to be an active participant in your child's education!

We are looking forward to a wonderful new school year here at Washington – thank you for sharing your children with us!!

Adley Copeland, Principal and the Washington Elementary Staff

It takes a village to raise a child!

Back to School Open House

This year our School Open House will be held on Thursday, August 22th, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. We will be providing ice cream as well as school spirit shirts at this time. Our theme for this school year is “**20/20 Vision**”. Our focus this year will be on seeing and serving the whole child. Classroom placements will be posted at that time and classroom visitations will be held that evening as well. Elizabeth Owen, our Family and Community Resource Coordinator, will be here to answer any questions our families may have regarding resources available. Our PTO will be on hand to sign parents up as members of the organization, and will have sign-ups for a variety of committees needed throughout the year to help make our school a great place to be. Our secretary, Ms. Martindale and our clerk, Mrs. Thornton, will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding school procedures or registration.

First Day of School

Tuesday, August 27th is our first day of school. The cafeteria will be open for breakfast beginning at 7:45 a.m. School begins at 8:20 a.m. and dismissal is at 2:50 p.m. Please do NOT drop students off outside prior to 7:45 a.m. as there is no supervision. Teachers will greet students outside and walk them into the building and to their classrooms. Kindergarten students will be dropped off in the gym where teachers will pick them up.

School Arrival

Beginning at 7:45 a.m. students will either go to breakfast in our cafeteria or wait out front near our amphitheater. Students will be able to visit with grade-level friends in that area until the 8:20 bell rings. Students will not be allowed to enter classrooms until 8:20 and will be walked to class by their teacher when the bell rings.

***** Changes for Kindergarten. This year, kindergarten students will wait in the gym daily. The students will be supervised by staff here until their teachers pick them up. This is an added layer of safety for our newest huskies. Parents may still wait with their child if they would like, in the cafeteria during breakfast. No parents are permitted to wait with their child in the gym. *****

Early Dismissal Days

The Vancouver School Board again approved an initiative for the 2019-2020 school year allowing for days when school will release **1-hour early**. This year, just like last year, there will be early-release Mondays until June. The objective of this is to provide time for teachers to collaborate on improving student learning.

Please refer to our school newsletters to keep up on additional days off and altered schedules.

School Dismissal and Pick-up

School Dismisses at 2:50. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be dismissed from their classroom's exterior door. Parents may pick up Kindergarten students at 2:45. Using the side gate, parents may pick their students up at their classroom's exterior door. All other students in 2nd – 5th grades will exit through the front of the building. Please make sure you have an **updated** go home plan on file with the office so that we know how and with who your child will go home on most days.

Absence Line

When your child is absent from school, please call our attendance line at 313-1442, or email Washington.Attendance@vansd.org by 9:00 a.m. You may also access the email feature through your family access portal. Please leave a message including the date of the absence, student's name, teacher's name and reason for the absence. If your message is not received by 9:00 a.m. the school district's automated calling system will call your home to report your child absent for the day. **Please note that all absences must be excused either by phone or by written communication.**

Visitors and Volunteering at Washington

All volunteers are required to complete paperwork and be cleared by WSP (Washington State Patrol), prior to working at school with children. This can now be done online. If you are new to Washington or haven't been cleared as a volunteer within the past two years, please fill out a form online. We love to have parents volunteer in our classrooms. The approval process takes approximately two weeks.

All visitors to school must be clearly identified with a visitor badge during school hours. Please do not forget to stop in the office and sign in using our new computer background verification system. Please have a valid form of ID with you for this. If you do not have sign in sticker, you will be politely asked to return to the office to check in. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy which is designed to ensure the safety of all students.

AVID Curriculum Fair

Make sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 25th, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for our Curriculum Fair. The Curriculum Fair provides an opportunity for you to come in and learn more about your child's education at Washington. Dinner will be served at this event.

Medication At School

The Vancouver Public Schools recognizes that in some cases a child must take prescription and non-prescription medication at school. When it is necessary because of a health condition for your son or daughter to be given prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours, authorization must be given by the child's parent or guardian accompanied by written instructions and the signature of the prescribing health professional. The authorization must include inclusive dates for each prescription and/or any changes in the dosage or administration instructions as they occur.

Only medication containers properly labeled by a physician, dentist or pharmacist and brought to school by the parent may be accepted for administration by the school. Forms are available in the school office and must be renewed each year.

Medication will not be administered without the required signatures on the form (no exceptions). Please note that this includes, but is not limited to: cough drops, aspirin, eye drops, etc. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Timely Arrival to School

Students should arrive at school no later than 8:20, our school day begins promptly at 8:30 at Washington, and students may enter classrooms beginning at 8:20. Instruction begins in our classrooms immediately after the tardy bell rings. When students arrive after the 8:30 tardy bell they miss important beginning of day instruction. Students who enter late often feel anxious and are embarrassed to enter. It is also disruptive to the classroom when students enter late. Please ensure that your students start their day off on the right foot by arriving on time.

Lunch Prices

Lunch prices will remain the same this year at \$1.95. Juice or milk only will cost \$.45. Breakfast will remain the same at \$.80. For adults breakfast is \$1.50 and lunch is \$2.90. With our computerized lunch count system any amount can be put on a student's account. The system however, cannot give change. Please also note that Free and Reduced price meal paperwork must be completed each year. So even if you received Free or Reduced price meals last year you will need to fill out new paperwork this year. This paperwork will be sent home in the opening day packet. It can take up to two weeks for this paperwork to be processed.

Phone and Address Updates

If you have moved over the summer, or changed your phone number please be sure to stop by the office or call and update that information with us so that we are better able to stay in touch with you.

Front Door Buzzer

Our schools spend significant time reviewing, reflecting upon and revising building safety plans throughout each year, in order to promote safe learning environments. Visitors and volunteers who come to school after the school day has begun will need to be "buzzed in" by our front office staff, who will have full camera-view of those approaching to enter our building. We know that you will appreciate this step to keep our schools safe.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming school year, please feel free to contact our office Secretary – Ms. Martindale and Mrs. Thornton – our Registrar – they are on hand daily from 7:30 – 4:00 to answer phone calls. Our office is also open during that time if you have paperwork to fill out or turn in.