

Arcadia September 2022 Newsletter

Continual Improvement Plan (CIP)

The Granite School District has charged each school to have a Continuous Improvement Plan. The intended purpose of this plan is to help the school focus on three goals in Academics, Social Skills & Dispositions and Talent Development. The goals for this year are attached to this email. You will also notice posters around the school with our goals on them. A Parent/School Compact will be coming soon to show how you and your student can help us reach these goals.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

At Arcadia Elementary, we use PBIS to help students make good choices and refrain from misbehavior. This year, students will earn purple tickets with the school rules printed on them. Students will keep the tickets until the traveling PBIS cart comes to their classroom. They will then be able to “spend” their tickets on prizes on the cart. Our school rules are the same as the Graduate of Granite Standards on student report cards. They are:

- Be Respectful
- Be Dependable
- Communicate Well
- Be Responsible
- Do Hard Work & Be Resilient

When students earn a purple ticket, they are told why they are receiving it. The adult giving the ticket emphasizes one of the rules that the student has followed and praises them for making a good choice. At the end of each quarter, the purple tickets are put into a drawing to be able to attend the Principal’s Quarterly Party, which is held at the end of each term.

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We are also working on lunchroom behavior by seeing which class uses indoor voices and lines up in the hall the best. Each day, I announce who was selected the previous day and that class is entered into the drawing to attend the party as well.

Bookfair

The bookfair will be in the library and online from the 12th through the 16th. Students wishing to purchase something from the bookfair need to bring money on the day of and give it to the librarian when they attend with their class. You can also browse online and buy books and other items for your child. A brochure with the link will be distributed to the students to take home soon. If you have any questions, please call the main office and a secretary will be happy to assist you.

SEPs (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

SEPs will be the 21st & 22nd from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. The 21st has been designated a “virtual” night by the district. Teachers will be in the building but they will be on virtual visits most of the night. The 22nd has been designated an in-person night and teachers will be in their classrooms to meet with you. Teachers will eat dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. The online scheduler will be available soon on our website, which is: <https://graniteshools.org/arcadia/> Please note that the visits are only for 10 minutes so try to be on time and stay within the time limit. If you need to have a more lengthy conversation with the teacher, please schedule a time to meet before or after school. Teachers will be showing you student progress reports, student data notebooks and other information pertinent to your student. If you have trouble scheduling a conference, please

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call the office and Debbie or Sandra will help you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Say "Boo" to the Flu Clinic

The flu clinic where you and your child can receive flu shots will be September 22nd from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Gym. Our district nursing services nurses will be here to administer the shots and have you fill out some brief paperwork. It will be first come, first serve so while you're here, you may as well get your flu shot.

Constitution Week

Constitution Week is from the 19th through the 23rd. Our 5th grade students will be signing a proclamation with the principal and have a presentation by someone from the Daughters of the American Revolution. The goals of Constitution Week are:

- Enlighten the public about the historical events surrounding the establishment of the Constitution and the men who framed the document, using public service announcements, newspaper editorial opportunities, and social media.
- Hold events, give programs, put up displays celebrating the 67th anniversary of the first Constitution Week to commemorate the 235th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution and the 231st anniversary of the Bill of Rights-Amendments 1-10.
- Secure Proclamations from local governments; present them, when possible, in public meetings/forums.
- Organize Bells Across America events with chapter members, in schools, with pre-school classes, and in churches to ring bells in celebration, simultaneously at 4:00 p.m. eastern daylight saving time.

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- Inspire community members to protect and defend the Constitution.

We are excited to celebrate Constitution week and will post some pictures on our Facebook page when we sign the proclamation in our 5th grade classes.

School Data & Testing

I'm pleased to report that our test scores rose, for the most part, last year! We especially did well with our multilingual learners. Our teachers are working really hard to help students improve their knowledge which will improve their test scores. The most common tests that we give students are as follows:

- **Acadience Reading** (Used to be DIBELS), which is a reading screener that tests various components of Reading.
- **Acadience Math** is a new screener that helps teachers determine how students are doing in Math and what to reteach in small groups.
- **RISE Benchmarks** are for 3rd – 5th grade students to prepare them for the end-of-year RISE summative test. These tests help students get familiar with the RISE format and how to manipulate certain tools required in the test. Teachers use the data gained from these tests to determine what concepts need to be retaught and how to help students understand each section of the RISE test.
- **RISE Summative Test** is an end-of-year test for 3rd – 5th graders. The results are reported to the Utah State Board of Education. The results of this test determines a school's status and grade. Needless to say, it is a very important test on which students need to do their best.

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- **WIDA** is a test for our multilingual learners that is given every year in March. This year, the test will be administered by the teacher in the classroom. The test includes sections on the following:
 - o Writing
 - o Reading
 - o Speaking
 - o Listening

Students are categorized in levels. The levels are:

- o 1 – Entering
- o 2 – Beginning
- o 3 – Developing
- o 4 – Expanding
- o 5 – Bridging
- o 6 – Reaching

Students who reach a level five or above are exited and are put on monitoring status. Students who are tested receive English Language Development (ELD) time during the day in the regular ed classroom for a minimum of 45 minutes.

Students on levels 1-4 are systematically pulled into small groups facilitated by an aide to receive intensive instruction to improve their language skills.

- **Utah Compose** is a 5th grade test where students write anything from a paragraph to an essay and are automatically graded on their grammar, punctuation, etc. This test is intended to help students increase their writing ability so that they can do well in future grades and on summative tests.
- **Common Formative Assessments (CFAs)** are tests that teachers give periodically throughout the term to determine what a student knows or doesn't know. These tests help the teacher in their Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings to select which

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students need intensive help or need extensions. These are the most common and familiar tests that students take.

As parents, it is important to stress to your child that he/she needs to do their best on each test given so that the teacher is accurately grouping students and helping them with what they need.

5th Grade Workshop

Our 5th graders are going to attend a workshop on how to write a screenplay given by the Utah Film Center on the 12th starting at 1:00 p.m. in the teachers' classrooms. We're excited to see how our students respond to this opportunity and get them interested in Writing!

PTA Meeting Schedule

We already had our first PTA meeting on September 1st. I thought I would include the meeting schedule for the year below if you're interested. We really need you to join PTA! Please consider becoming a member. Meeting dates and times are as follow:

- September 1st
- October 6th
- November 3rd
- December 1st
- January 5th
- February 2nd
- March 9th
- April 20th
- May 11th

All meetings will be held in the library at 3:30 p.m. Please consider volunteering – especially for Vision Screening which will be coming soon.

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Social and Emotional Learning Lessons (SEL)

Teachers will be giving SEL lessons weekly to students throughout the year. These brief lessons will focus on social and life skills that students need to be successful in school, at home and in the workforce. We will also have a monthly recess skill. September's is being kind to one another while at play.

Reminders

- **There is no pick-up/drop-off/parking in the bus zone.**
- We are stressing attendance this year, so please get your student here on time.
- You must pay for breakfast/lunch now that the Federal Government is not paying for them. You can pay in the office or online at www.paypams.com.
- If you can't afford meals, you can apply for free or reduced breakfast/lunch by going to <https://www.myschoolapps.com>.
- Volunteers are now allowed in the school. Please coordinate with the teacher on when would be the best time to come. When you arrive, you will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. Debbie or Sandra in the office will give this to you. Please make sure you log your hours so that the PTA can receive credit.
- There is no school for students on the following days: 9/5, 9/23 and 9/26.
- We still need people to apply for the following positions:
 - o Motor Aide (Special Education)
 - o Self-contained Aide (Special Education)
 - o Kindergarten Aide (Regular Education)
 - o Inclusion Aide (Special Education)

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Coming in October!

- Literacy Night will be on the 6th from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- The Mobile Food Pantry is on the 6th at 3:20 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Fall Break is on the 13th & 14th – no school on these days.
- The 17th is a teacher preparation day. There is no school on this day for students.
- Community Council is on the 20th at 3:45 p.m. in the library. **We need 4 more people to join!** Please email me for a declaration of candidacy form at mgraham@graniteschools.org.
- The 27th is a short day and is the end of the term.
- There is no school on the 28th for students.
- The Halloween Parade is on the 31st starting at 9:30 a.m. and will be held outside weather permitting.

Thanks so much for your continued support! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or my assistant, Brooke Snell via email or by calling the office.

Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Sincerely,

Matthew Graham, Principal