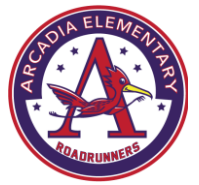




Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023

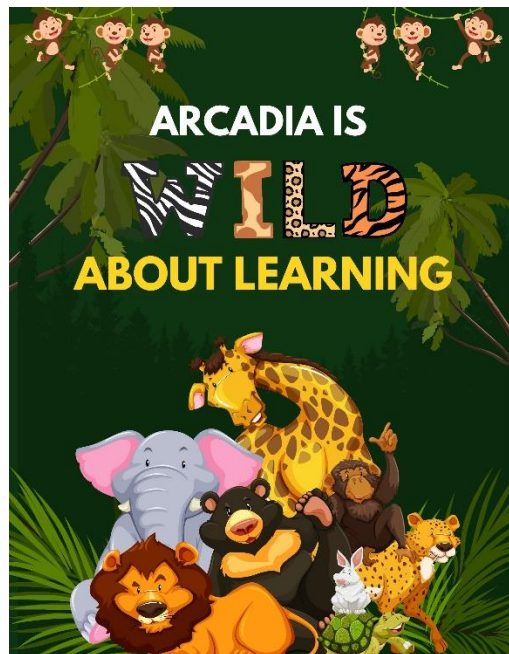


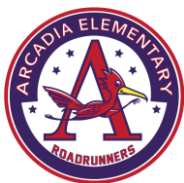
(Para leer este boletín en español, utilice [Google Translate](#).)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

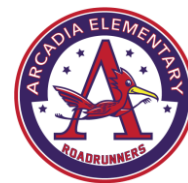
I'm thrilled to begin a new school year and look forward to all the learning and progress that will take place this year. The following information is intended to keep you informed of what is going on at Arcadia during the month of September.

This Year's Theme





Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Arcadia's Mission Statement

Arcadia Mission Statement

Arcadia Elementary School is committed to educating the whole child while providing a safe and nurturing environment that promotes a passion for life-long learning, respect for self and others, and an appreciation for individual differences.



School-Parent Compact

The school-parent compact is a document that informs parents how they can help their child at home and outlines what the school will do when students are at school. We have identified three important skills we would like parents to concentrate on with their students this year. They are:



1. **ATTENDANCE** – Learning cannot take place if students are not at school. Coincidentally, September is National Attendance Awareness Month!

It is of vital importance that your child comes to school consistently and is only absent when sick and contagious. Please be conscientious in scheduling dental, counseling, and medical appointments before or after school hours. If you must schedule an appointment during the school day, please communicate with your child's teacher to obtain missed work to be completed at home that evening. Federal and state law mandates all children ages 6-18 attend school. Parents of students who have chronic attendance issues will be required to attend an attendance hearing to create an improvement plan and may be referred to the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and Juvenile Court if, after attending a hearing, the student's attendance does not improve.

2. **PERSEVERANCE** – During the pandemic, many students fell out of the routine of continually "trying" when doing work and learning at school. I observed many students last year who were given an assignment and would not attempt to work on it and seemed to have low



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023




motivation to do schoolwork. We need parents to continue working on this skill at home and encourage students to try their best and at least begin assignments. Persevering is a life skill that will serve students throughout their lives. Most successful people know how to persevere and not give up. Together, I hope we can help your child learn to persevere and complete their assignments consistently.

3. **RESILIENCE** – Last year, we became a model school for the Resilient You Program promoted by the governor and State of Utah. Being resilient and learning to bounce back from adversity is necessary for success in reaching goals. Working on this life skill at home is important because students encounter setbacks every day academically and socially. When parents demonstrate resilience and promote it to their children, students gain the confidence and courage to continue working towards their goals no matter what the situation.

You will receive a copy of our school-parent compact at SEPs (parent/teacher conferences) on 9/19 or 9/20. Copies of the compact are available in the office, and it will be posted on the school's website for your reference.

Arcadia's Continuous Improvement Plan This Year

**Arcadia Continuous Improvement Plan
2023–2024**



ACADEMIC GOALS

Goal 1: Upper grade students will increase RISE Test proficiency rates in Reading by 7%, in Math by 6%, and in Science by 5% by the end of summative testing.

Goal 2: All students will increase Acadience Reading and Math proficiency rates achieving typical or above typical growth by 6% working towards 70% overall proficiency in Reading and 65% in Math by the end of the school year.

SOCIAL SKILLS + DISPOSITIONS GOAL

Goal: As a school, we will reduce the overall number of behavior referrals by 7% by the end of the school year.

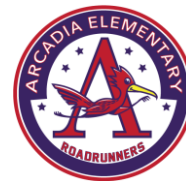
TALENT DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Goal: Teachers will collaborate 98% of the time at least eight times each month to review student data and strategize on how best to help all students progress towards proficiency in all subjects by the end of the school year.

If you have questions about this plan or anything school related, please arrange to speak with the principal or assistant principal by visiting/calling the office or emailing them. Parents and all stakeholders play an important part in helping us succeed with our CIP goals. *Please ask your child's teacher how you can help.*



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Our Continuous Improvement Plan this year is posted throughout the school. The goals are listed above. Please let me or your child's teacher know if you have questions about the plan and what we are doing to achieve our goals.

Important Information Parents Need to Know This Month

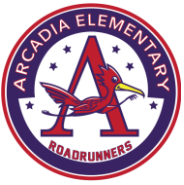


New Staff Members

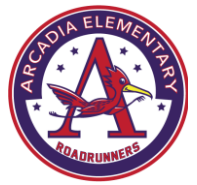
I am excited to share the list of our new staff members this year. They are:

- ✓ Brienna Lawrence - Half-day Kindergarten Teacher (Replacing Bethani Rose)
- ✓ Jessalyn Asay - 1st Grade Teacher (Replacing Hillary Herbopelis)
- ✓ Brenna Donnelly - 2nd Grade Teacher (Replacing Christina Tuifua)
- ✓ Raechyl White - 4th Grade Teacher (Replacing Madisen Rose)
- ✓ Eric Christoffersen - 5th Grade Teacher (Replacing Holly Minshew)
- ✓ Kelsie Glad - 5th Grade Teacher (New position due to increased enrollment in 5th grade)
- ✓ Shelly Autry - Principal's Secretary (Replacing Debbie Richardson who retired)
- ✓ Andrew Glad - Special Class Aide
- ✓ Elizabeth Daugherty - Special Class Aide
- ✓ Kaitlyn Funk - Special Class Aide
- ✓ Kathryn Jones - Kindergarten Aide
- ✓ Jennifer Manfre - Classroom Aide
- ✓ Lenora Berne - Motor Aide
- ✓ Rachel Kummer - Playground Aide
- ✓ Brandon Turner - Sweeper





Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



PBIS & School Wide Behavior Plans

All schools in the Granite School District participate in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program which is part of our social skills and dispositions continuous improvement plan goal. A brief explanation of the program is below:

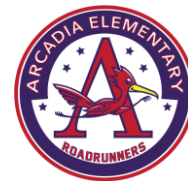
- ✓ Purple Tickets: Students earn purple tickets for following the school rules. Teachers are expected to hand out at least 10 purple tickets a day to positively encourage students to recognize their good behavior and be motivated to continue.
- ✓ Incentives & Rewards: Students keep their tickets and collect enough to “buy” things from the school store when it comes to their classroom.
- ✓ Teachers send spent tickets to me and Ms. Snell. We put them in a basket and, when it’s time for the quarterly principal’s party, we draw names out of the basket for individual students to attend.
- ✓ The tickets are counted, and we use the data to determine how the program is working.

The School Wide Behavior Plan is listed on our website and explains how students are rewarded for expected behaviors and what consequences are given if they have unexpected behaviors. The PBIS plan plays an important role in the school’s behavior plan. Positive reinforcement has been widely proven to be best practice when helping students learn acceptable behaviors at school.





Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



SEPs (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

SEPs are on September 19th & 20th from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please schedule your conference soon (when the scheduler will allow it) so you can secure the time you would like. The scheduler is located on the school's website. If you encounter problems with the schedule (called Pick-a-Time), please call the office to receive assistance.

We will have student-led conferences again this year and students will show you their data notebooks and explain the data to you with the teacher facilitating the discussion. Please keep in mind that appointments are only 10 minutes. If you would like to speak with your child's teacher longer than that, you need to arrange a convenient time to meet with the teacher.



Say "Boo" to the Flu Clinic

The flu clinic is scheduled for September 20th from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. Shots will be given in the gym. I encourage every family to consider getting a flu shot as one of our important goals is to increase student attendance.

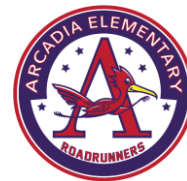


Constitution and Citizenship Day

- Constitution Day and Citizenship Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September, 17, 1787 as well as celebrates those who have become U.S. citizens. The U.S. Department of Education requires that educational institutions who receive federal funds implement an educational program to recognize Constitution Day.
- During the 2023 Legislative Session, state legislators passed HB 179 Founders and Constitution Recognition. This legislation designates September as American Founders Month and describes the purpose of Constitution Day, and does two things:
 - Encourages "all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations, and public and private educational institutions, to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate programs, teaching, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local governmental officials are invited to participate..."
 - Invites "all Utah school children to read directly from the United States Constitution and other primary sources, and to be taught principles from the United States Constitution that include federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers,



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



popular sovereignty, limited government, and the necessary and proper, commerce, and supremacy clauses.”

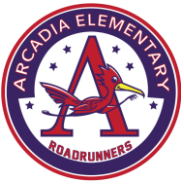
Teachers at Arcadia will give lessons about the Constitution and the importance of being a good citizen on Tuesday, September 19th. Please ask your child's teacher if you have questions about this requirement.

School Data & Testing Review for Parents/Guardians

I want parents to understand and know what types of assessments we give students at Arcadia and in the Granite School District. They are:

- ✓ Common Formative Assessments (Tests created by a teacher or grade level team to determine if students have learned what the teacher taught.) Quizzes, essays, asking questions, exit tickets, etc. are examples of these types of CFAs.
- ✓ Acadience Reading Tests – These assessments are a snapshot in time of how a student is doing in Reading. They are administered three times a year to give teachers data on how a student is progressing. You will receive a report on the tests given thus far at SEP conferences.
- ✓ Acadience Math Tests – These tests are much like the reading tests and are also given three times a year.
- ✓ Acadience Progress Monitoring Assessments – These are designed as probes to measure student progress in Reading and Math. The frequency of the probes is determined by where students are performing. Intensive (red) students receive more probes than core (blue) students. Ask your child's teacher about these probes if you have questions.
- ✓ RISE Tests – There are practice tests for RISE called “benchmarks” and “interims” throughout the year and summative (real) tests given beginning in April. These are “high stakes” tests as they are intended to measure what 3rd – 5th grade students have learned throughout the year. They are rigorous and teachers give the benchmark and interim tests to familiarize students with their formats and length. Students are assessed on the following subjects when taking the RISE assessments:
 - Reading (English Language Arts)
 - Math
 - Science (Only 4th & 5th Grades)
 - Writing (Only 5th Grade)
- ✓ WIDA Assessment – Only students designated as multilingual learners take the WIDA assessment. The test is usually administered in February or March of each year. Teachers





Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



are mandated to include English Language Development (ELD) time for 45 minutes a day for MLs. There are four parts to the test which are:

- Writing
- Reading
- Speaking
- Listening

Students are categorized into levels. The levels are:

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

Students who reach a level five or above are exited and are put on monitoring status.

- Utah Compose – This assessment is for 5th graders 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.



Community Council

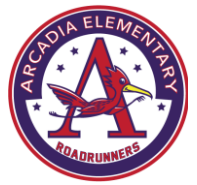
We still need two or three more parents on our Community Council. Thank you to those of you who have joined so far.

Community Councils are mandated by the State of Utah to serve as a decision-making body that approves Land Trust funding plans created by the principal. Members review the plan yearly, give input and feedback and ultimately approve the plan that is uploaded on the Land Trust website.

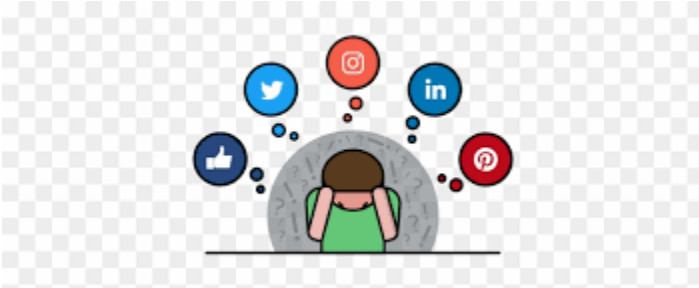
Being on Community Council is a minimal commitment. The only thing you would have to do is attend one 45-minute meeting a month after school. You can even join virtually if you cannot attend in person. If you are willing to be on the council for the required two year commitment, please contact me for a declaration of candidacy form.



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



The Harms of Social Media



On August 3rd, the Office of the Governor launched a new public awareness campaign concentrating on the harms of social media. The goal of the campaign is to protect the health and well-being of Utah's youth.

The campaign is available in both English and Spanish. It is located at: www.socialharms.utah.gov. As a principal, I am sad to write that I have encountered the negative effects of social media on students more often than I care to admit. Please consider going to the campaign's website to learn more on how you can help your child navigate the perils of being online.



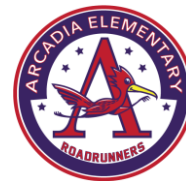
Panorama Survey Information

The Granite School District made the decision to have all schools administer a school climate survey to students, parents, teachers and administrators to determine areas in which schools can improve and enhance student learning. The survey asks students questions about their social skills and dispositions, school climate, and school satisfaction. The survey measures student perceptions of teaching and learning, culture and climate, and student experiences in the classroom and school.

Thousands of schools use the Panorama Student Survey to design effective teaching practices and more engaging learning environments. The Panorama Teacher Survey is designed for school administrators looking to collect feedback from teachers. Administering surveys on these topics can help strengthen the rapport between teachers and leadership and build stronger relationships within a school building.



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Student surveys aims to gauge whether an institution is making headway towards its goals. Each institution's student survey may have different goals it's working towards. For example, one institution may seek to uncover ways to increase student retention while another aims to improve test scores.





An opt out email was sent to parents on August 25th. You may still opt your child out of taking the survey if you wish by contacting Ms. Snell, our Panorama Survey coordinator. **The deadline to opt out is 3:00 p.m. on September 8th.**

The survey will be given to students during the last two weeks of September for term one. Staff will take the survey in term two, students will be surveyed again in terms three and four.

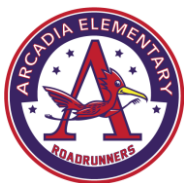
Reviewing this data will help us address areas of need and make our school a better place for all stakeholders. Please contact me or Ms. Snell if you have questions or concerns about the Panorama survey.

Proficiency Based Learning (Grading) Explained

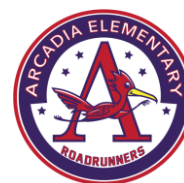
The old way of letter grading is gone. In the Granite School District, we use a number system called proficiency based learning. Infographics to help you understand this grading system follow:

Proficiency Levels			
<h1>1</h1> <p><u>BELOW PROFICIENT:</u> I still need help and support from my teacher to do the simpler parts of the standard.</p> 	<h1>2</h1> <p><u>APPROACHING PROFICIENT:</u> I am getting close to meeting expectations and I can do the simpler parts of the standard independently.</p> 	<h1>3</h1> <p><u>PROFICIENT:</u> I meet the expectations described in the standard and can do them independently.</p> 	<h1>4</h1> <p><u>HIGHLY PROFICIENT:</u> I have a deep understanding of the standard and I can demonstrate it in complex ways.</p> 

Proficiency Based Learning



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Proficiency Based Learning

What Families Need to Know:

What is Proficiency Based Learning (PBL)?

Proficiency based learning (PBL) shows what students know about what they've been taught.

How Do Teachers Identify Students With Proficiency Levels?

Students show their progress through multiple ways of learning and assessments (writing, reports, projects, videos, etc.) instead of taking a high stake test. Additionally, students' proficiency score is based on their most recent demonstration of their understanding, not a cumulative total of their work.

How Can Proficiency Based Learning Help Families?

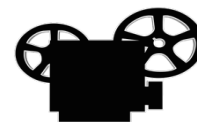
Families can see how close students are to becoming proficient and get support from teachers to help their child progress towards proficiency.

What is Different From the Old Grading Scale?

- Can students earn extra credit? Extra credit is no longer needed, because getting a grade is not determined by how much a student does, it is determined by how much a student understands.
- How does homework fit in? Homework can be assigned, but the focus for homework is to give students practice - not to give students grades. As such, we call it extra practice - not homework.
- How can my child get a 4? By demonstrating an understanding beyond the proficiency standard students can earn a 4. If a child is meeting the expectation of the standard they will receive a 3. (For an example see the the back of this document.)
- Can my child retake an assessment? Once a child shows they understand more they can retake an assessment. If they demonstrate and meet the standard they will receive a 3 and if they exceed it they will receive a 4.



[How Do Teachers Use PBL?](#)



[Purpose of Grades](#)



[Granite District PBL Website](#)

For More Information Please Link to www.graniteschools.org/grading

So What Does This Mean in Practical Terms?

Learning is *not a contest*, game or competition. If we *continue to organize* it that way, we will always have *students* who could succeed ... *but give up*.

Administrator

I like that it is *simple* and *builds* on top of itself. Not one test will determine your whole grade. If you *grow* your *knowledge* on a subject then your *grade* will get better.

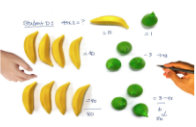
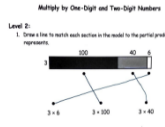
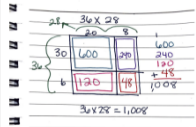
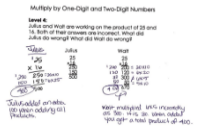
Student



PBL Example in 4th Grade Math:

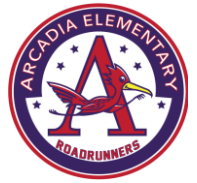
Standard 4.NBT.5

Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two two-digit numbers, using strategies based on place value and the properties of operations. Illustrate and explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.

PROFICIENCY 1	PROFICIENCY 2	PROFICIENCY 3	PROFICIENCY 4
<p>Student D: The student can solve the problem with teacher help and hands-on materials.</p> 	<p>Student C: The student can do simpler parts of a problem independently.</p> 	<p>Student B: The student can solve the problem meeting the expectations of the standard.</p> 	<p>Student A: The student analyze other solutions and determine mistakes. They can also solve the problem.</p> 



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Proficiency Based Learning - Math Example

1

BELOW PROFICIENT:

I still need help and support from my teacher to do the simpler parts of the standard.



2

APPROACHING PROFICIENT:

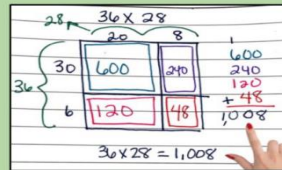
I am getting close to meeting expectations and I can do the simpler parts of the standard independently.



3

PROFICIENT:

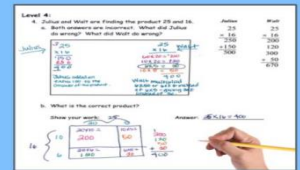
I meet the expectations described in the standard and can do them independently.



4

HIGHLY PROFICIENT:

I have a deep understanding of the standard and I can demonstrate it in complex ways.



For More Information Please Link to www.graniteschools.org/grading

Please ask your child's teacher if you have any questions about how we grade and assess student learning at Arcadia.

Graduate of Granite Characteristics & Arcadia School Rules

Our school rules are the same as the district's Graduate of Granite Characteristics. They are listed to the side.

Every day over the announcements, students are reminded of the school rules which are:



GRADUATE OF
Granite



HARD WORK
& RESILIENCE



COMMUNICATION



RESPONSIBILITY



ACADEMIC
PROFICIENCY



DEPENDABILITY



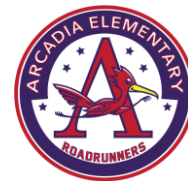
RESPECT

- Be Respectful
- Be Dependable
- Communicate Well
- Be Responsible
- Do Hard Work & Be Resilient
- Keep Your Hands, Feet and Other Objects to Yourself (KYHFOOTY)

It would be great if parents/guardians would remind students of the school rules outside of school and encourage their students to follow the school rules at all times.



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA wants you to join! The PTA is an organization that advocates for teachers and parents to enhance the education of students. Our wonderful PTA funds many things at our school like field trips, field day activities, assemblies, family engagement events just to name a few. I strongly urge you to become a member and sign up to volunteer. The commitment is as large or small as you would like it to be. You can write to our awesome PTA president, Christina Belcher, at

arcadiaroadrunnerspta@gmail.com for more information on joining.



One of the great things our PTA sponsors is the yearly National Reflections Contest. This contest is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides opportunities for students of all grades and abilities to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme. This year's theme is "I am hopeful because...". The seven categories for the contest are: Visual Arts (2-D), Visual Arts (3-D), Literature, Photography, Musical Composition, Dance, and Film. I hope you will encourage your child to participate in this wonderful opportunity to share his/her talents.

Principal's Parenting Tip of the Month

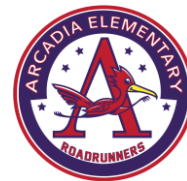


I have been an administrator for 17 years. Over the years, I have seen and learned a lot about child development and behavior. This year, I will share parenting tips in my monthly newsletters to help parents enhance their relationship with their child. The following is my first tip for parents.

- **Show and tell.** Teach children right from wrong with calm words and actions. Parents are the most influential people in a child's life. Modeling healthy adult behavior will help your child tremendously to develop those behaviors in their daily lives.



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Parent Resources

The Granite School District has a [Parent & Family Resource Guide](#) that lists resources parents can use to receive help and guidance. The following are also resources you can access if you need help.

[Utah Parent Center](#)

[UEN Parent & Caregiver Resources](#)

[Utah PTA Parent Resources](#)

[Tips for Effective Parenting](#)

[988 Suicide Prevention Hotline](#)

[University of Utah Center for Child Care & Family Resources](#)

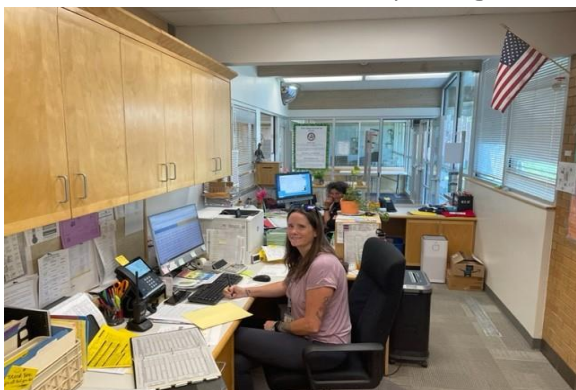
[Workforce Services Parent Resources](#)

[ParentsEmpowered.org](#)

[Utah 211](#)

[Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

Employee Spotlight – Shelly Autry



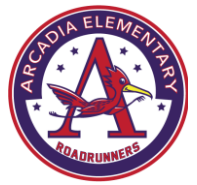
I have a new secretary this year and would like to officially introduce her to you. Her name is Michelle (Shelly) Autry. Shelly has been a contract aide in our special classes for a long time. I'm pleased she applied for the position as she is familiar with the school, students, and community. Shelly has been doing a great job learning how to be a principal's secretary and is a fast learner. I ask you to be patient with her as she is learning how to do her new job.

Arcadia Activities & Important Dates for September

- 9/12 – Magic show assembly on “Kindness.”
- 9/18 – PTA fundraiser begins.
- 9/19 – SEPs (Parent Teacher Conferences) 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. Sign up for times on our website.
- 9/20 – SEPs 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 9/20 – Say “Boo” to the Flu Clinic – During SEPs.
- 9/21 – Early out day (students out at 1:15).
- 9/22 – No school.



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



- 9/26 – Riverton Music band recruitment mini-assemblies in classrooms (only for 3rd – 5th grade students). If you want to sign your student up for band but are financially hard pressed, please contact me to discuss receiving a fee waiver.
- **9/28 - WILD ABOUT LITERACY NIGHT!** (Dinner from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. & activities from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.).
- 9/28 – Junior Achievement presentations in all classes.

Reminders

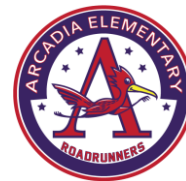
- Read student handbook [online](#) – be familiar with electronics policy, dress code policy & other important information every parent and student should know!
- Paying for meals – you may pay for student and adult meals online by going to www.paypams.com. Payments can also be made by check or cash and dropped off at the office.
- Applying for free & reduced meals – If you're having trouble paying for student meals, you can apply for free or reduced meals online by going to www.myschoolapps.com.
- I say this often, but it seems to fall on deaf ears. **There is no parking in the bus zone.** Please drop off or pick up your child in the designated zones in the main parking lot. Many parents also choose to pick up or drop off students from the church parking lot.
- The school communicates mainly through email, text, and social media. I try not to make phone calls because it can be disruptive in the evening. Please update your phone number and email address to ensure you get important information from me and other members of the staff. **It is especially important that we have correct emergency contact details in case of an emergency.**

Coming Up Next Month

- 10/9 – Picture Day
- 10/10 – 5th Grade RISE test goal setting conferences with the principal
- 10/11 – End of 1st quarter
- 10/11 – Early out day
- 10/12 & 13 – Fall Break
- 10/31 – Halloween Parade 2:15 – 3:20 Outside weather permitting



Arcadia Elementary School Principal's Monthly Newsletter September 2023



I hope to see you at Wild About Literacy Night on the 28th. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or feedback. Have a great September!

Sincerely,

Matthew Graham
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