

Olympus Junior High School

2217 East 4800 South – Holladay, Utah 84117-5309

Office: 385-646-5224 Counseling/Attendance: 385-646-5225 Fax: 385-646-5227



July 20, 2022

Dear Olympus Jr. Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year! We are excited to get the school year up and started, and we are anxious to meet all our new students. We have started getting a lot of calls in the office, so I want to get this information out to everyone so students can feel calm and ready for school to start on August 18. Many of the questions pertain to getting new students into the building and comfortable prior to the school year beginning.

Before getting into the registration information there are a couple of information things to go through. First, we will be having Community Council elections earlier in the year this year (August) than we have in past years (usually mid-September). We have three full openings (2-year term) and one partial opening (1-year term) on this year's council. To be claim one of these positions, you will need to fill out a Declaration of Candidacy. This form can be found on the school website under the "Community Council" tab. Scroll down until you see a blue tab that reads "Submit Candidacy Declaration". Please fill that form out and drop it off in the main office.

I would also like to take a quick moment to welcome a few new people to our school. Our new Assistant Principal is Mr. Jami Hutchins. Ms. Mykelin Higham will be coming to Olympus Jr. as an English teacher and will be teaching 7th grade. Ms. Tammy Anderson is moving over from Kennedy Jr. High to take over the Educational Technology and Manufacturing classes. She will also be teaching CCA. Mrs. Madison Suarez has been teaching FACS at Green River High School for the past 8 years, and we are excited for her to make the transition to Olympus Jr. Ms. Keira Shae will be our new Intern Counselor. Mr. Derek Robinson, our school Social Worker, will be at Olympus Jr. full-time this year. Mr. Joshua Dunn will be our assigned Psychologist. Finally, Ms. Lisa Cannon will be our new Bookkeeper. You will see her in the Main Office.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to follow our Facebook Page. It is the best source for current information. I often post information there before sending it out in an email. Keeping up with the details we're working on prior to the school year and then seeing what's happening once school starts is best done via Facebook. To get to the correct Facebook page, go to our school website, <https://schools.graniteschools.org/olympusjr/>, and click the Facebook icon in the upper right. Once at the page, you can follow it.

Registration Information:

We are doing on-line registration again this year, and the registration materials can be found on the school website under the "Registration" tab at the top of the page. The registration process will be completed on the district website, but our page has a direct link you can click to get you to the correct place at the district site. Our page also has information you and your student should read prior to the school year. On-line registration will begin on **August 1**. To complete the on-line registration, you **MUST** create a Parent Portal. Instructions for creating a portal are available on the district site you will be sent to when you click the registration link. In addition to being necessary for registration, the portal allows you to log in and see

your student's PBL proficiency levels for their classes and their attendance. The portal is also where the district downloads your student's RISE results each year.

You should receive a postcard reminder about registration in the mail next week; they are being mailed out tomorrow, July 22.

Everyone needs to use the website for registration; however, if you have questions, we are here to help. The office will be open daily from 9am-2pm beginning August 1.

Important information regarding policies and student expectations, including information for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) will be in the student planners. Students will be given their planner the first week of school in their Advisory class. These expectations will be reviewed and reinforced throughout the school year. Olympus Jr.'s PBIS motto is RISE, which stands for Respect, Integrity, Safe, Engaged, and the school is working with the faculty and students to develop and implement school-wide expectations based on these principles. We will continue to send information home about our progress and developing expectations for PBIS as the school implements them.

Important Items:

Orientation

An official orientation is important for our new students. The 6th graders need to know how the school functions, and the 7th and 8th graders need to have procedures and policies reinforced. We will do orientation on the first day of school. Students will have orientation in the auditorium, and it should last the first two periods of that first day of school. This will allow us to ensure that all students have the same information and will know the expectations and procedures they need to follow at school.

There are usually two concerns for new students. First, they want to know where their classes are so they don't get lost on the first day of school. Second, they want to practice opening their locker. Without having an official orientation day prior to the beginning of school, this can make some students nervous. So, to alleviate that concern, please know that the building will be open beginning August 1 for students to come find their classes and practice lockers. Once a parent finishes the registration process, they will be able to print out their student's schedule complete with teacher names and room numbers. Once your student has that in hand, they are welcome to come to the school between 8-2 to walk and find their classes and practice opening a locker.

We will have a bank of lockers next to the Counseling Center with the combinations written on masking tape on them so students can practice opening them. Students will receive their locker assignment and combination when school begins.

We do ask that during this time students not congregate in large groups or loiter at the school. Teachers will be here getting ready for the school year, and August 11-17 they will be having meetings throughout the days that shouldn't be disturbed with a lot of craziness in the halls. Students loitering or causing unnecessary commotion will be asked to leave.

Lockers/Bookbags:

We will be assigning lockers to all students this year. You will not be able to come in and request certain lockers; we are assigning them by grade level in designated areas. Students will still be allowed to have their bookbags with them in classes. While we are assigning lockers, we are strongly encouraging students to not use them very often during the school day. Passing time between classes is only four

minutes, so students don't have time to go to their lockers between each class. This issue is minimized by the fact they can take their bookbag to class with them. Our suggestion is to use the locker to store lunches, jackets/coats and then carry needed class supplies in their bags.

Additional information about lockers is available in the school policies, but quickly: students are responsible for their locker. They shouldn't share their combination with friends. Most theft issues at the school stem from lockers, and stem from students sharing their combinations with people. Don't store valuables in the lockers. No stickers or writing on the lockers with markers is allowed. No decorating the outside of lockers is allowed (birthday decorations get out of hand and will be removed).

Passing Time:

Students have four minutes to get from class to class. This is enough time for students to get where they need to go; however, it is not enough time for students to get where they need to go if they stop to congregate and talk in the halls, go to their lockers every period, or roam the halls with friends. There will not be a bell to begin class, so there will be no bell letting students know they are tardy, so students need to get to their next class quickly. Teachers will be in the halls monitoring students and then going into their classes when class starts. Students should aim to be in class before the teacher comes back into class. This year, we will be encouraging all teachers to utilize starter activities for students to begin working on as they enter class. This will get students to class and beginning to work on focusing on the day's lesson while giving the teachers time to take roll and otherwise get class up and running.

Cell Phone Policy:

I want to make sure all students are aware of the cell phone policy prior to school beginning. Students will not be allowed to have their cell phones out during school hours from 7:45am-2:45pm. Students need to make sure their phones are on silent mode and put away in their bags. Students are not allowed to access their phones between classes or at lunch. If a student needs to call home, they can use the phone in the Counseling Center to do so, or they can go to the Counseling Center and ask to use their cell phone to call home from there. The rules for cell phones apply to smart watches as well.

Bell Schedule Information:

Advisory is Monday-Thursday. The advisory period will be 26 minutes long to accommodate announcements as well as the other activities of Advisory. It will follow 2nd period. On student schedules, their Advisory period will be listed as their "0" period because it isn't a class that meets all five days of the week. When looking at your student's schedule, you will also notice that they have an 8th period listed with Ms. Kendall as the teacher. Every student in the building is in this class so the counselors can have and use a Canvas page to send out information to parents and students.

First Period will begin right at 7:45am each day, so please make sure your student is at school early enough to get to class on time. Student drop-off areas are on the east side (main drop-off) and west side (secondary drop-off and the bus zone, so be aware the bus comes through at around 7:20). The east side does back up because of the crosswalk in front of the doors that's used by students who walk to school. Please plan accordingly for the east side drop off to move a little slowly.

Fridays will have a twist in the schedule due to lunch. Because Friday is an early out day, having lunch around 4th period would have first lunch start at 9:36am; that is early. To alleviate this, students will go to 5th period first, then 4th period with lunches. This will allow lunch to be at 10:09; still early, but not as early. So, all students will go to class in this order on Fridays: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 4th, 6th, 7th.

Beginning of the Year Activities:

Once school starts, we jump right into a number of activities that it's best to know about before-hand so your student can decide if they want to participate.

Class Officer Elections (for all three grades, 3 positions per grade) process begins August 22

Cross Country begins August 24

Soccer begins August 29

PBIS Ambassador selection process begins September 6

Attendance:

Please make sure to contact the Counseling Center if your student misses school. Unexcused absences will impact a student's Citizenship grade. Absences can be excused by calling 385-646-5225 or by emailing olyjrattendance@graniteschools.org.

General Reminder Items:

Fee Waivers and Free/Reduced Lunch Applications:

Fee waiver applications will be available in the on-line registration materials. Please remember that each child needs a fee waiver application, so if you have students in elementary, junior high, and high school, you will need to fill one out at each school. Also, Fee Waivers need to be applied for and approved every year. If you are interested in applying for Fee Waiver, please follow these steps:

- a. Fill out application (can be printed from on-line registration material or picked up in the main office)
- b. Bring appropriate documentation (Federal Tax Filing preferred)
- c. Meet with an administrator for review of application (either administrator can help)

Free and Reduced Lunch applications can be filled out as part of the on-line registration process. Free and Reduced Lunch applications can be filled out for a whole family, so you will only need to fill out the application once for any of your students in Granite School District. These forms can be completed on-line or physically turned in to the lunchroom manager.

Free lunch for all students is over. This year, students will need to pay for their lunch if they do not have free lunch. Lunch is \$1.65/day.

Lunch Pin Numbers:

If you are a returning Granite District student, your lunch pin number will be the same as it has always been. If you are new to Granite District, your lunch pin number will be provided to you by the lunch secretary on the first day of school.

Students must enter their lunch pin number to receive lunch. All students must enter their pin when receiving lunch this year as lunches are no longer free.

Lunch Change:

We are making an adjustment to how lunch will work this year. The past couple of years, we have allowed students to head straight outside to eat. We will no longer be allowing food outside at lunch. Students will need to eat in the cafeteria and then they should go outside to play. This will make it easier

for kids to eat as they will have tables, and it will keep the field from becoming messy with food and garbage.

School Policies:

School policies are included on the web site with the other registration materials. Please make sure you read them prior to the school year starting. We will also be providing student planners to all students, and the front section of the planner will include all school policies families will need to know. As you review policies, please note the cell phone and dress code policies.

Immunizations:

Salt Lake County requires all students to be in compliance with the State Immunization Requirements. Students must be vaccinated in order to register for and attend school. If you have questions about vaccinations, please contact the Counseling Center at 385-646-5225.

There are shots needed for all students going into 7th grade. Please work with your pediatrician to get these shots. Once your student receives the needed shots, those updated records will need to be turned in to the Counseling Center. Students who do not comply with vaccination requirements will be excluded from school.

School Pictures:

Every student needs to have a school picture taken so they can receive an Olympus Jr. Activity Card and be in the Yearbook. Picture Day will be August 25, with a make-up day being held on October 6.

Student Schedules:

Student schedules will become available once the on-line registration process is completed. We work diligently to balance classes as much as possible during the creation of the school schedule. Due to this, class changes will be minimal. If you would like to make an appointment with your counselor about your schedule, please call 385-646-5225 starting August 8.

Yearbooks:

Yearbooks will not automatically charge to your student's account as they are not a fee; they are an optional item that can be purchased. Yearbooks must be pre-ordered and will need to be ordered and paid for prior to Winter Break. If your student would like a Yearbook, it needs to be pre-ordered.

We are excited for the school year, and we are looking forward to seeing all the kids!

Sincerely,

Josh LeRoy, Principal
Jami Hutchins, Assistant Principal