

Hello Heritage Families,

The school year is here! On August 4th, Dr. Scott Siegfried, Cherry Creek Superintendent announced that families who selected the In-Person Learning (<https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/Page/12410>) will start In-Person.

At Heritage, this means your child's learning plan includes five days a week of in-person learning for students in K-5 here. Our focus is on cohorting students as the primary strategy to limit spread of the virus. Also, physical distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible. This plan is in alignment with the additional health guidance.

The week of August 17-21, all Cherry Creek Schools is operating on a "phase in" schedule. This means that each grade will attend school one day. The purpose of this is to greet each grade and student after not being inside the school since March. There will be more staff available to be attentive and present. In addition to taking vital steps in building strong relationships it will allow safety guideline to be incorporated more seamlessly throughout the day. The schedule is as follows:

- August 17 - 5th grade only
- August 18 - 4th grade only
- August 19 - 3rd grade only
- August 20 - 2nd grade only
- August 21 - Kindergarten and 1st grade only
- August 24 - All students attend school

At Heritage, we recognize and are ready for kindergarten to start! During the week of Aug 10, kindergarten teachers will communicate directly with families to schedule a time for the student and at least one parent to come to school. The purpose will be to meet the teacher, see the classroom, and talk about the start of the school year. Also, for parents to share about their child and for teachers to conduct a few school readiness assessments to assist in learning goals for the year and to create classes.

On August 13, you and your child will learn who their teacher will be for the school year. To share with you who your child's teacher will be and who their classmates will be, homeroom teachers will email you a "welcome to our class" email and include the class list so your child will know which other students will be in their class.

When you and your child come to school, there are COVID strategies that the Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment expect schools to institute. Strategies that involve all of us happen at the beginning and end of the school day, namely a "staggered drop-off" and "staggered pick-up". In previous years, kindergarten through 2nd grade has been doing this via our "soft start". The soft start is students arriving at school via a variety of modes of transportation and walking around the school to their classroom door. The teacher is at the door 7:45-8:00am. This year, the plan is for all students to walk around (socially distanced) to their outside classroom door where their

teacher will greet them and students will enter their classroom. Students will be marked “late” if they arrive after 8:00am. Upon entering the classroom, student will engage in a process of washing hands, getting their personal affects organized for the day, getting and eating breakfast if they desire and mentally finish transitioning to classroom learning. The “staggered pick-up” or soft end to the school day will have students transition to SOAR Club at 2:35. At 2:40, students who walk home or parents meet them at the classroom will be dismissed. Finally, at 2:45 students who ride the bus or are picked up in the school parking lot will transition to these areas. By having a soft start and soft end to the school day, we will be able to better institute the strategies of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Over the summer, a group of teachers and I have revised the school schedule. Our focus and priority remains on an inclusive class culture and a focus on academic and social / emotional learning. Adjustments that we have made focus on how do transitions around the building occur to support social distancing, one cohort or grade eating in the cafeteria at a time, and scheduled hand washing times throughout the day.

As Heritage eagerly anticipates the start to this school year, know we are looking forward to learning together! In this time, Desmond Tutu’s quote of “My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together” captures my vision. A strong class culture is built on the foundation of us being human together. Being human together occurs both in academic endeavors and class and school community endeavors. It will be in our collective humanity that our children will be empowered to go forward with joyful confidence!

Together in learning,

Ryan Langdon  
Principal