



# CLOVER GARDEN SCHOOL

## *Home of the Grizzlies*



7/6/2020

Dear CGS Families,

We want to officially welcome all of you to the 2020-2021 school year! Summer has come and gone for us and now we must move forward with many exciting changes and updates. This summer hasn't been "normal" for any of us due to COVID-19 but we have all worked together to make the best of the uncertainty and have been progressing steadily to preparing for a fantastic opening of school on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We are very privileged to have the opportunity to return this school year as part of your administrative team. We are honored to have the opportunity to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff, our wonderful students, and all of our supportive CGS parents. This school year, Clover Garden School begins our 20<sup>th</sup> year in operation as a distinguished charter school! This is a wonderful accomplishment and just proves that together we can, and together we will go far!

The educational years are critical times of development for students and families and we look forward to working with all of you to make this school year successful! We understand that this school year will not begin as we had hoped and envisioned but we are committed to our students and families and will work hard to ensure that your child has the best quality education at CGS! This year can and will be one of the best with plenty of hard work, determination, and flexibility.

### **Remote Learning:**

Beginning on July 28, 2020, Clover Garden School will be providing instruction remotely through our CGS Distance Learning Plan. This means that there will be no "on-campus" instruction taking place. Instruction will take place on-line. We have updated our distance learning plan based upon the feedback and recommendations that all of you provided on last year's Weekly Reflection surveys. Our Academic Committee has been working on improving this plan all summer long, analyzing and critiquing the many facets of the plan to ensure that the best version is created that will not only meet, but exceed the needs of all of our students enrolled at CGS. We know that the thought of beginning remotely is not only overwhelming but may cause significant anxiety for many of our families. We ask that you please continue to keep the lines of communication open during this time of remote learning. Please communicate with us as soon as possible if you see something concerning taking place during remote learning. If we are not aware of a unsuccessful learning situation, we are unable to make adjustments as needed.

This school year's distance learning plan will mimic more of what a traditional instructional day will look like in the fact that more emphasis will take place on providing your student with quality daily instruction and less quantity of assignments. The distance learning plan is broken down by days to make learning easy to understand and participate in. There are only "A days" and "B days" this year. You will see on the attached calendar designated for your student's grade level that we will spend 3 days a week focused on core material in our "block" courses in Middle and High School and 2 days a week focused on our "period" courses. We encourage you to take the attached calendar and fill in the "blanks" based on your student's schedule. This will help your student stay organized during distance learning. Student schedules will be mailed out prior to the start of the school year.

This year we've made a huge improvement to our remote learning plan based upon the fact that we will all be using the SAME online platform in grades K-12. The online learning management system that all students will be using this school year is called "Canvas". Our teachers have been working all summer on learning how to manage the online platform and have already started putting their material online so that we will be ready for the students' return on July 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are not experienced with the Canvas online platform, do not worry! Our Canvas Committee has been working hard this summer to create Professional Development learning modules or instructional videos to help you learn how to navigate the Canvas program. We want all of you to be prepared and familiar with the program so that you can help support your student at home successfully. We are going to do everything we can to help make this transition as easy as possible. We will send the training module instructions out soon for your information if interested!

Attached, you will find PDF documents that pertain specifically for your student(s) that include an overview of your student's "daily schedule" as well as daily/weekly expectations for the classroom teacher, student, and parent during distance learning. We greatly appreciate your willingness to ensure that your student participates in daily instruction. Attendance will be collected daily. Each student will be asked to check in with their "Homeroom/1<sup>st</sup> period" teacher via email daily for students in grades 6-12, and homeroom teacher for students in grades K-5. Attendance will be collected weekly and placed in PowerSchool. Each parent will have access to PowerSchool and Canvas to monitor student work and progress.

Please take a moment to complete this internet access survey [HERE](#). This information is very valuable to making sure that we have the most accurate information to help make remote learning a success for your student. This survey will be closed on Friday, July 10, 2020. Everyone is asked to complete this survey so that we have information provided for each and every one of our students.

### **Other Updates/Improvements:**

Over the summer, we have been very busy making improvements for the new school year based on feedback that we received from all of our teachers, parents, and students last school year. In order to serve you more efficiently, we have made some positive changes and moves in and around the building to best prepare for next school year once we are able to return in person. On campus, you'll notice that we now have new light poles installed in the front circle and alongside the band room and softball field. This has brightened up our campus and has added additional safety and security after dark. We have also installed a new sign on our front building when you enter campus from the front circle entrance. We have repurposed the smaller letters that were mounted prior to this installation. Lastly, we have attached Clover Garden School banners on many of our light poles that showcase some of our Clover Garden School student body. We are very proud of these improvements and can't wait to share them with you once we're all back on campus.

### **Shout Outs of Appreciation**

We'd like to take a moment to send a special "shout out" to Mr. Mont, Mr. Harold, Mr. Love, Mr. Love Jr. and Mr. Whittington for all of their hard work over the summer helping to clean and complete much needed maintenance projects on and around our campus. They have worked very hard to ensure our school is ready and safe for our students to return when able. Another "shout out" goes to all of our teachers who have sacrificed their summer vacations by working tirelessly to prepare for the new school year so that we can begin learning remotely in July. Thank you all for everything that you do to make our school successful! #CGShastheBESTeducators!

In closing, please enjoy the remaining days of summer! We look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces on our first virtual day of school! Additional information will be coming out soon in regards to "Virtual Open House" dates/times and how to access pertinent information from your child's teachers. More information will be coming soon on how to access and learn about Canvas! Please remember to check our school's [website](#) and school's social media page on Facebook for updates.

As always, thanks for all that you do to make CGS better than BEST,

Mrs. Vereyken  
Director/Principal

Mrs. Moore  
Assistant Principal