

August 20, 2020

Dear families,

We've been tremendously busy this week! There are a lot of logistical pieces that go into planning the hybrid model. We take comfort in the fact that we will have enacted all three pandemic response model scenarios (in-person, hybrid and distance) in a twelve month period. Our resiliency and skills levels will be high for whatever this ever evolving health situation throws at us.

Your attention to the Back to School Survey has been very helpful as we prepare to tackle all the unprecedentedly complex logistics. Thank you. The survey was extended until the end of the day today to help families who were awaiting updates from middle and high school placements. An email with cohort placements (Green or Blue) by the end of day on Tuesday next week.

There's a lot of innovative things happening as we prepare for the year. As you know, we always celebrate outdoor activities at our school and we have been busy preparing learning spaces and furniture needs as we adapt for the year ahead. We are applying two timeless progressive education principles as we plan: flexible thinking and innovation!

As an example, here's a note from teacher Michelle for some support with a furniture project:

*Necessity is the mother of invention! We are so excited to have a great solution to give kids personal work space both outdoors and in! Tom Powers, Matt Eastvold and Amanda Petis have helped us design an innovative personal desk and stool that students can use in a variety of ways. [Eastvold Furniture](#) is using their special machines to cut the pieces out. We'll be looking for a crew of volunteers to help us sand the pieces and put them together (if you're interested, please e-mail [mmartin@prairiecreek.org](mailto:mmartin@prairiecreek.org)). Massive thanks to Tom, Matt and Amanda for their help!*

### **Child Care**

Families who qualify as Tier 1 critical workers and indicate that they wish to use this care will be contacted with updated information by the end of next week. Thank you for your patience, this is our first experience establishing a PCCS Tier 1 child care, and we need a little time to work through staffing and other logistics. In the meantime, questions about Tier 1 care can be directed to me at [styler@prairiecreek.org](mailto:styler@prairiecreek.org)

### **Device Return**

Today was device drop-off day. Thank you to everyone who drove out to school and dropped off ipads and chromebooks. Our initial inventory indicates that there are still a lot to be returned. It is really important for us to get them all back and upgraded for use this year. Please return any PCCS devices as soon as possible.

Email [tech@prairiecreek.org](mailto:tech@prairiecreek.org) with questions.

### **Conferences**

Our school board will be approving a revised calendar next week indicating that **September 10** will be the first day of school and **September 8 and 9** will be goal-setting conference days. These will be virtual conferences, and conference sign-up information will be sent out soon. A formal revised calendar change will be shared with the community after board approval. We do not anticipate other changes to the calendar.

The extra support from staff this summer it has been truly amazing. They have gone way above and beyond. We have very full two days of teacher planning on Monday and Tuesday next week. This will be the first time we have been able to get together as a whole staff to flesh out details of hybrid instructional design, schedules and procedures. Please know that we will be sharing so much more information with you after these two planning days.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best  
Simon  
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