

September 8, 2020  
Dear families,

I hope you are doing well on this rainy Tuesday! The delayed start has also given us a welcome couple of days to work on logistics and building preparation for this unusual start to the year. A few quick reminders:

### **Conferences**

It is certainly a change for us to be hosting conferences prior to the start of the school year! By all accounts, teachers and families are appreciating the chance to check in before we officially launch our hybrid program on Thursday. Please reach out to your class teacher with any conference schedule questions.

### **Device Pick-Up**

We are ready to distribute iPads (password 1234) and Chromebooks to families this afternoon from 3pm - 5pm to families who are in the Distance Learning Only or the Green Cohort. We will send devices home with Blue Cohort children on Thursday. In-person children will be bringing their device to and from school each day. Technology questions can be emailed to [tech@prairiecreek.org](mailto:tech@prairiecreek.org)

### **First Day (s) of School**

I think we all feel the sadness of traditions and events that have been interrupted by the pandemic. Nonetheless, we are determined to find creative ways to build community and connect children with each as we enter this unusual year.

Returning families will be familiar with the large gathering that usually happens on our plaza and then in the gym on the first day of school in a normal year. We are going to tweak things, but keep the spirit of the first day alive for both Blue (Thursday) and Green (Monday) first days.

In the interest of starting the year off without a large close gathering, parents are asked not to leave cars or drive out to greet the bus this year. Children will be greeted by their teachers (as we always do) before gathering on the big field for a social distanced welcome and poetry reading by Simon. Each class will then head in with their teacher as per our usual routine. We'll repeat this on Monday for the Green cohort. We'll take and share photos!

### **Health Reminders from Nurse Connie**

Hello families! Just a reminder as we head back to school in person starting on Thursday.

In following the MDH Decision Tree, please keep your children home if they-or their siblings- are experiencing one of the more common symptoms of covid (fever over 100.0, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell) OR two or more of the less common symptoms of covid (sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, or new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose). It is a good idea to print a copy of the decision making tree or the narrative of it and keep it handy for guidance throughout the year.

We will check temperatures upon arrival. Also please remember to complete the Health Declarations form and return to the office. Thank you to those who have turned the form in! (see below or pick up a hard copy in the office). We are excited and ready to have you back!

**Tier 1 Child Care / After School Care**

Children arriving or leaving the Tier 1 or After School Care program will only use the Green Door by the plaza this fall. Parents should wait in the entryway and staff will bring the children to you. Note that the parent access cards for Red door entry have been disabled.

**Thank you!**

On Saturday I had the privilege of seeing a great team of parent and teacher volunteers sanding, varnished the specially designed lap desks to support our children's new hybrid world. They are amazing! Many thanks to Eastvold Furniture, Tom Powers and all the volunteers who helped bring this project to fruition. It was so much fun to see them all arrive this morning.

Best

Simon

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[Declaration Health Screening \(2\).docx](#)