



Dear Parents:

The past two weeks have been extremely busy in the Fuller community. The students (and teachers) have been adjusting to being back at school and all of the daily routines are being worked out rather smoothly. Our kindergarten students officially started on Wednesday—they're so little and the process of learning how to *be* at school will be challenging, but by January, they'll know how to make it from the serving line to their seat and open their milk cartons independently.

I'd like to thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response to the last Principal's Page. Your comments, personal notes, and email messages have been very encouraging and affirming. I appreciate the trust you have in our team of teachers and our dedication to continuous improvement.

Electives

Today is the first day of electives for students in grades 2-5. In most cases, students received their first or second elective choice. Please do not make any more change requests, as Friday was the date to apply for changes to your child's elective schedule. I reviewed each child's schedule and even though we recommended that students register for at least one academic elective per quarter, many students signed-up for two. In most cases, I honored those requests because I value students' interest in taking advantage of our arts program. Please support that decision by making sure that your child remains responsible for his/her learning in the academic subject area.

Afternoon Carpool Dismissal

If you use the afternoon carpool, it is important that you do not go around other cars where parents are waiting for their children. Since the start of the school year, the teachers who dismiss students at carpool in the afternoon have reported cases where student safety has been jeopardized by parents who decide to move around other cars. Some of our students enter their parents' car on the driver's side. Please use caution and exercise patience when picking up your child. We understand that it's hot, you have places to be, and waiting in line when you have your child is frustrating, but we're working out the kinks in our system.

Extended Absences from School

Every day of learning in the school environment is important for each child. It is very difficult to replace classroom instruction. While I understand that many of our families have obligations and interests that require that they leave the area, and in some cases, the country, for long periods of time, I am not in a position to excuse your leave requests. Excusing absences from school means that I accept responsibility for the learning that your child will miss. I'm sure that you can understand why this presents a problem when you request leave for such long periods of time. Furthermore, growth management has notified me that consecutive absences for extended periods of time have implications for the enrollment status of magnet families.

I advise you to take long absences from school during the summer months and over holiday breaks. Even though the academic repercussions on a student's grade are minimal at the elementary level, a period of unexcused absences that exceed 30 school days results in the principal making a decision about the student's grade placement for the next academic year.

Dates to Remember

September 20th

September 21st

September 24th

October 5th

Open House

Early Release Day

Teacher's Workday

Early Release Day