

Deirdra Joyner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Mariellen Taraboletti
Principal

July 28, 2025

Dear Keene Families,

Welcome Back to School!

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones well and enjoying the final days of summer. As we begin a new and exciting school year at Keene, we are delighted to welcome back our returning families and extend a special greeting to those joining our community for the first time.

We are truly excited to have you as part of our vibrant school family and look forward to a year filled with meaningful learning, personal growth, and new opportunities. As always, our mission is to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment where every student can thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Over the summer, our faculty and staff have been busy preparing to ensure a smooth and successful start to the year. We cannot wait to introduce you to our dedicated team of educators who are passionate about creating an engaging and enriching experience for your child.

Here are a few essential details to ensure a smooth start to the school year:

Take a Look: Thursday, August 28th from 4:00-5:00. Families are invited to tour the school, visit the classroom, and meet their child's teacher. A food truck will be here if you are interested in grabbing some dinner.

First Day of School: The new school year will begin on Tuesday, September 2nd for all students in grades 1-5. Kindergarten students will have an Orientation on Tuesday, September 2nd from 9:30-10:30. This will take place in the Keene cafeteria. Bus transportation will NOT be provided for kindergarten on Tuesday, September 2nd, so parents are required to transport students to and from orientation if you choose to bring them. The orientation will provide parents with the opportunity to meet the classroom teachers and to discuss important information regarding transportation, school supplies, and other kindergarten specific topics. All Kindergarten students will have their first day of school starting on Wednesday, September 3rd.

School Supplies: Attached to this letter is the list of school supplies your child will need for their grade level. Please ensure they come prepared with the necessary materials on the first day.

Cell phones: Please refrain from bringing cell phones to school. While we understand that cell phones can be helpful tools, they can also be a distraction in the classroom and disrupt the learning environment. Keeping phones away during class time helps us all stay focused and engaged, ensuring a productive and enriching educational experience for everyone.

Student Birthdays:

- Student birthdays will continue to be announced on the morning announcements. Students will be called to the office to receive a birthday book.
- NO FOOD will be accepted for birthday celebrations. You can bring a special lunch for your child. Please note any food sent in for the class will not be distributed.
- If you would like to do something for your child's class, here are some ideas:
 - Stickers, tattoos, pencils, pencil grippers, or erasers.
 - Request a short dance party or fun exercise time that the birthday child can lead.
 - Send in a special book that the parent, teacher or child can read to the class.
 - Send in a special item for show and tell by the birthday child.

Bus Information: You will be receiving a separate mailing from the transportation department with your child's bus information. All daycare/childcare forms are purged each year, so please make certain you have filled out a NEW 2025-2026 daycare form. Please make sure that the pickup and drop off information is correct. If you have any questions regarding bus transportation, please call the Transportation Office at 454-2281. Please remember, pickup and drop off times are not exact so it is recommended to be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the assignment times.

School Hours of Operation: 8:50-3:50. We will open the doors at 8:50 a.m. with instruction beginning promptly at **9:05**. Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:50. If your child arrives after **9:05**, a parent/guardian must sign them in at the office.

Arrival: If you are driving your child to school in the morning, you will enter the parking lot and form a "line" along the curb. A staff member will be on duty to direct you through the circle directly in front of the school and to meet and greet your child as they exit the vehicle. It is imperative that we keep the line moving in a single lane through the circle. We ask that if you need to help your student exit the vehicle that you park in the lot and walk them to the front doors. Drop and Roll.

Dismissal: We will begin dismissal at 3:45 with car riders followed by bus riders. If your child is a car rider, please pull into the circle and display your child's identification card on your rear view mirror. These will be given out the first day of school. You must bring photo identification with you every day. Your child will not be released to you without proper identification. Anyone that you wish to be able to pick your child up must be listed on the emergency card and bring proper identification. Students must be picked up by **4:00**.

Information: Information will be shared using Class Dojo and/or emailed out via Peachjar so please make sure that we have your correct email address and phone number. Keene also utilizes our website to share information, <http://www.keenees.org>. Additionally, we have a Twitter account (@KeeneElementary) and a Facebook page (Keene (William B.) Elementary School) that we will use to send out updates and quick announcements as we go through the school year.

Upcoming Calendar Events

September 11th: Patriotic Day-wear red, white, and blue

September 15^h: Joe Corbi's Fundraiser begins

September 22nd and 23rd: No School

September 24th: PTO Meeting @ 5:00 in the library/Formal Open House- 5:30-6:30

We will continue to use our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program and Restorative Practices at Keene. We have had great success with both. PBS emphasizes that all students stick to the Four Keene "Koalaty" Principles: Show Respect – Follow Directions – Act Responsibly – Always Do Your Personal "Koalaty" Best.

Together, we have the opportunity to make this school year a meaningful and enriching experience for every student. We value the partnership between home and school and look forward to working alongside our families to cultivate a supportive, engaging, and joyful learning environment.

Thank you for placing your trust in us to guide and support your child's educational journey. It is a privilege to be part of their growth and discovery.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Sincerely,

Mariellen Taraboletti
Principal

Heather Buchanan
Assistant Principal

