

Dan Shelton, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Mariellen Taraboletti
Principal

August 12, 2021

Dear Keene Families,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the summer and getting ready for the 2021-2022 school year. We once again want to express our thanks to you, our students, and our staff for your support over the last year as we have navigated this pandemic together. This newsletter contains a lot of information, but as always please reach out if you have any questions.

There will be an informal Open House on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. You will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see where your child's classroom is located, meet the Specials teachers, support staff, and tour Keene. We will also be hosting a Moe's Pop-up Fundraiser on Taco Tuesday, September 7th for Keene Elem. School PTO. This means you can take the night off from cooking while supporting a great organization! These Take-home Family Taco Kits are ready to eat when you get home, making your night easier, plus for every kit sold, \$5 will be donated to Keene Elem. School PTO. The Meal Kits feed 4-6, come with all the fixings to make up to 12 tacos, and are \$36.99. Choose from chicken, ground beef, 1/2 chicken and 1/2 ground beef, or vegetarian.

How to Order:

1. Place your order by 10:00am on Tuesday, September 7th Fill out this form to place your order. <https://form.jotform.com/211154511720138>
2. Pick up will be at [200 Cpl/1 Stephen J. Ballard Way, Newark, DE 19702](#) between 4:30-5pm on Tuesday, September 7th. When picking up your order, just stay in your vehicle, give us your name, we will bring your order right to your vehicle and you are on your way.

The new school year will begin on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 for grades 1st-5th. All Kindergarten students will have a full day starting on Thursday, September 9, 2021. The Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 8th from 10:00-11:00 for last names beginning with A through L and at 1:00 for last names beginning M through Z. This will take place in the Keene cafeteria. ***Bus transportation will NOT be provided for kindergarten on Wednesday, September 8th, so parents are required to transport students to and from orientation.*** The orientation will provide you with the opportunity to meet the classroom teachers and to discuss important information regarding transportation, school supplies, and other kindergarten specific topics.

KEENEES.ORG

Academic success, discipline and safety of all students are our priority! Our mission at Keene is as follows: To unite the diverse talents of staff, parents, communities and students into a positive, supportive, caring partnership that seeks academic, social and emotional success for each child in a safe environment. 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. We will also be a Leader in Me school. Leader is Me is an evidenced based, comprehensive school improvement model-developed in partnership with educators and Franklin Covey-that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in a global community. Leader in Me is about empowering your child to reach their full potential while ultimately finding their voice. As a school, the staff in this building have made five core commitments to your child. We call these our Core Paradigms. In these paradigms, you will find the belief and way we view all students.

At Keene, we see that:

Everyone is a leader.

Everyone has genius.

Change starts with me.

We empower students to lead their own learning.

Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

Health and Safety: In accordance with Governor Carney’s recent announcement, the recommendation of the CDC, and in order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the Christina School District will follow the Governor’s guidance and require face masks to be worn by all staff and students regardless of vaccination status.

This updated guidance takes effect Monday, August 16. Please visit [Delaware.gov/coronavirus](https://delaware.gov/coronavirus) to read the August 10 press briefing from Governor Carney. The face mask requirement applies to all indoor settings, including schools, school district facilities, and school buses.

The well-being of our staff and students remains a priority, and as guidance changes, we are prepared to pivot to maintain a safe environment. For more information and updates, visit www.christinak12.org.

The Christina School District in partnership with the Delaware Department of Education, Delaware Public Health, and Quidel, are offering the implementation of a rapid COVID-19 Testing Program. Like last year, registered students and staff will participate in weekly testing to detect the presence of COVID-19. These tests, similar to a rapid strep test, provide results in fifteen minutes. The Christina School District began offering this service in January of 2021. We are excited to continue offering this mitigating strategy for the 2021-22 school year.

<https://www.christinak12.org/antigen-testing>

Student Birthdays:

- Student birthdays will continue to be announced in the morning. 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 2021-2022 daycare form. Please make sure that the pickup and drop off information is correct.

<https://www.christinak12.org/cms/lib/DE50000539/Centricity/Domain/3086/Childcare%20Transportation%20Req%20Form-2021-2022-English.pdf>

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 9:10. If your child arrives after 9:10, 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.

Dismissal: We will begin dismissal at 3:50 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.

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.

KEENEES.ORG

Upcoming Calendar Events

September 10th: Patriotic Day-wear red, white, and blue

September 16th: No School

September 20th: Formal Open House for Kindergarten-2nd grades from 6:00-7:00 (adults only)

September 22nd: Formal Open Houser for 3rd-5th grades from 6:00-7:00 (adults only)

September 27th: Schools Closed

Once again, welcome back! Let's make it another great year at Keene!

Sincerely,

Mariellen Taraboletti

Principal