

Irene Reither Elementary Newsletter



Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL **September 2018** **School Day: 9:00-3:35**
Patti Fouts – Principal **Fridays: 10:00-3:35**
Adrienne Somera – Assistant Principal **Kevin Hersom – Assistant Principal**
Website: www.meridian.wednet.edu
Office Phones: IRE 360-398-2111 Bus Garage: 360-318-2172

IRE IMPORTANT DATES

8/29 Back to School Day 9AM-3:35PM
8/29&30 Kindergarten Entry Conferences
8/31 Late School Start – 10AM
8/31 Tailgate Party @ MHS Trojan Football Game – 5:30PM
9/3 Labor Day – No School
9/4 Tears and Cheers – 9AM
9/4-5 Kindergarten Slow Start 9AM-1PM
9/6-7 Kindergarten Full Day
9/6 Back To School Night–5:30-6:30PM
9/7 Late School Start – 10AM
9/7 Student Responsibility Plan Information to families
9/14 Late School Start – 10AM
9/18 PTA General Mtg. – 6:30-7:30PM
9/21 Late School Start – 10AM
9/25 Watch D.O.G.S. Night – 6:30PM
9/28 Late School Start – 10AM
9/28 SRP Contracts due to teachers
10/8 Individual Student Picture Day
10/12 Teacher Work Day – No School

LUNCH SCHEDULE

Kindergarten 11:20-12:10
1st Grade 11:25-12:10
2nd and 3rd Grades 11:55-12:35
4th and 5th Grades 12:20-1:00

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS FOR SUCCESS

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE WE ARE SAFE
WE ARE RESPECTFUL WE ARE KIND

STUDENT RECORDS AND RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Federal law requires an annual reminder to parents that the school district is permitted to publicly release certain information about students such as name, photograph, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, and dates of attendance. Such information is not released for commercial purposes. If parents or guardians do not wish such information released, they should complete the Opt Out form available at the school office. If there is no response, the school will assume that there is no objection to the limited release of such information. We will make every reasonable effort to protect the privacy of students.



IRE FAMILIES

Welcome to a new school year. We hope all of you had a wonderful summer and are as enthusiastic as we are to be back at school! We are looking forward to greeting 1st through 5th grade students on Wednesday, August 29th @ 8:40AM. We look forward to greeting kindergarten families for entry conferences August 29th and 30th and greeting kindergarten students on their first day of school, September 4th.

SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

Skyward provides you information about your student. You can check student grades, attendance, homework, schedule conferences, and access the school calendar. Skyward is able to translate into over 50 different languages and can be done in your Skyward Family Access settings if needed. For families without home computers or internet access, there is a computer available in the IRE office during regular school hours. Please keep your email address and phone numbers current so that you can receive important school information.

STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATES

Skyward will be our new way for updating student and family information. Skyward will also be the place to complete Field Trip Forms, Update Health History Forms, and find other school information. Each parent/guardian has been assigned a login and password. If you do not know your login and password, please call the school office @ 398-2111.

~Log in to Skyward Family Access.

~Follow the update prompts, available Wednesday, August 29th.

~Update all of your student and family information.

~Complete student/family updates by October 1st.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th 5:30-6:30PM

Families are invited to visit school on this informative evening. You will meet your child's teacher, become familiar with your child's classroom, and learn classroom daily activities, expectations, & responsibilities. Students are welcome to attend as essential participants in the school to home connection.

KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES TEARS OR CHEERS – SEPTEMBER 4TH

Kindergarten parents are invited to join together to meet other parents and share your tears or cheers about sending your children off to their 1st day of kindergarten! This event will take place at 9AM in the IRE staff lounge. The staff lounge is located behind the front desk area and down the hall. This event is sponsored by the Meridian PTA.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY PLAN BOOK

An important part of your student's education is becoming familiar with the Student Responsibility Plan Book. Teachers will be teaching and modeling behavior expectations throughout the year. The SRP will be sent to families electronically on Friday, September 7th. The SRP will also be available at our Back to School Night, September 6th. Washington State requirement for a Title 1 School is 100% return.

√**Parent/Guardians please sign the Student Responsibility Plan signature contracts on the back page, and return to your child's classroom teacher by Friday, September 28th.**

√**Help your children become well acquainted with this important document.**

SCHOOL DAY MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00AM-3:35PM FRIDAY 10:00AM-3:35PM

√Students are welcome to be at school beginning at 8:40AM Monday-Thursday and 9:40AM on Fridays

√Students are welcome to be at class beginning at 8:50AM Monday-Thursday and 9:50AM on Fridays

MORNING DROP OFF

To ensure safety for all IRE families, please follow these important guidelines:

- 1) Students dropped off before school will go to the supervised area between Building A and B, or to the IRE gym.
- 2) **Please do not park in the drop off loop.** The area is clearly marked with No Parking signs.
- 3) If your child can safely and independently exit your vehicle, pull to the curb and let your child get out of the car. Do not get out of your car on the driver side.
- 4) If your child cannot safely and independently exit your vehicle, and/or if you need to come into the school building, even briefly, please park in a designated parking space and use the crosswalk to enter the school safely.
- 5) The first row of the parking lot is not a drop off zone. Use the drop off loop to drop off a student.
- 6) When in the drop off line, please try to stay single file through the loop, without passing other cars. While this may be less convenient at times, it is essential for student safety.
- 7) The drop off loop in the morning is exactly that, a drop off loop. Vehicles should move slowly, allow students to exit vehicle, and continue on.
- 8) Students who arrive after the school start must be signed in at the school office before proceeding to class.

AFTERNOON PICK UP

- 1) School dismissal time is 3:35PM. This is a very important time for each class, as they are wrapping up the events of the day. Please honor this time by waiting until 3:35 to pick up your child at the parent pick up area. Please do not pick up your student before 3:35PM unless there is a family emergency.
- 2) All students will be sent home on the school bus unless other arrangements have been made.
- 3) If you plan to pick up your student at the end of the school day, please send a note with your student to give to their teacher the day before, or the morning you are picking up, or call the school office **by 2:30PM.**
- 4) If you would like your student to ride another route home, please send a note to school with the full name, address, and bus route the student will be riding. Send the note with your student to his/her teacher, or call the school office **by 12:00 noon.** We are not able to change bus routes after 12:00 noon.
- 2) Our student end of day pickup area is at the fence/gate area between Bldg. A and B.
- 3) At the parent pickup area, please find the sign out clipboards and sign out your student. Your student will be dismissed to you by the staff at the parent pickup area. Please do not go to the IRE office to sign out your student.
- 4) Due to the amount of people picking up students, and safety for all IRE families at the parent pick up area, we ask that you **do not park in or drive through the drop off loop.** The drop off loop is clearly marked with no parking signs.
- 5) Please park in a designated parking space in the paved or gravel area, use crosswalks, and walk to the parent pick up area.

Thank you for your help with these safety procedures.

DADS OF GREAT STUDENTS - D.O.G.S. PIZZA NIGHT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH 6:30-7:30PM

FREE PIZZA!!! (I'll get back to that in a minute)

IRE will continue to welcome Watch D.O.G.S. to our school this school year. The "D.O.G.S" stands for "Dads of Great Students" and is a nationally recognized structured program designed to specifically get positive male figures involved during the school day. Either in the classroom, cafeteria, or playground, we are looking for dads, uncles, grandfathers, or other dad-like influences from our families and community to fill a post at the school ON YOUR SCHEDULE. This can be a half day or whole day, once a week or once a month, heck, we'll take you for a one-time position! Pizza Night – Father's and/or Father figures and your IRE students are welcome to join us at the above date and time for more information. To become involved right away, you can contact Kevin Hersom at IRE khersom@meridian.wednet.edu.

MEAL PRICES – BREAKFAST \$1.50 LUNCH \$2.90 MILK ONLY 50¢

Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Applications are available at the school office, or online at the Meridian School District website – Departments – Food Service Programs. Parents are responsible for meals until the meal application has been approved. It may take up to 10 days for approval. Students will be assigned their lunch account number the first week of school. Students may deposit money to their account at any time. To help lunch lines move faster students may turn their money in to their teacher or the office in the morning. Parents may also deposit money online at www.mymealtime.com. All students who intend to buy food through the school meals program must pay in advance or pay as they go to purchase items. If you have questions about the food service program, contact Maria Doyle @ 360-318-2360.

ATTENDANCE

We want to see your child every day! Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction has given the schools in our state guidelines to follow regarding student absence. Absence from school is defined as failure by the student to attend the majority of hours or periods in an average school day. Excused absences include absence due to illness, parental approved activities which have been approved by the school administrator, or religious purposes. Unexcused absences occur when a signed excuse is submitted and does not constitute an excused absence as defined above, or failing to submit any type of excuse statement. An unexcused absence will be followed by a letter to the parent of the student. After two unexcused absences within any month a conference will be held between the parent, student, and the principal.

- √**If your child is absent, call 318-2483, morning of the absence, and follow that call up with a note to the teacher.**
- √**For a scheduled absence, please send a note to your child's teacher and the school office.**

WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS AT IRE

We are happy that you have chosen to share your time and talents with us. We hope your days at IRE will be a positive experience for you. During the first few weeks of school teachers are establishing their classrooms. At Back to School night, teachers will share with families their volunteer needs and calendar of when they will welcome volunteers into their classrooms. Every volunteer in the Meridian School District must complete the WATCH form. This inquiry form is run through the Washington State Patrol. For the security of our staff and students we require completion of this form every new school year. The WATCH form is available at the IRE office. Complete the form and turn it in at the office.

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL TAILGATE EVENT @ MHS BEGINNING @ 5:30PM

MHS will be hosting a "tailgate" party before the first home football game on Friday, August 31. This event will be held at the MHS courtyard. There will be music, lawn games (gaga ball, spike ball, corn hole, etc.), free cotton candy, face painting, and food options. The courtyard will open for fun at 5:30 and close at 6:45, 15 minutes prior to kick-off. Come join together at this true community and family event. See you there!

WHATCOM FAMILY YMCA TO OFFER K-5 AFTER SCHOOL CARE

YMCA will continue to provide an after school daycare option at IRE this fall for students in grades K-5. For more information about registration, program structure and costs, please contact Lynda Purdie from the YMCA at 360-733-8630 or email lpurdie@whatcomymca.org.

JOIN OUR PTA AND SUPPORT IRE STUDENTS – GENERAL MTG. 9/18 @ 6:30pm

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The MSD does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: **Title IX, ADA, and Compliance Coordinator (RCW 28A.640/28A.642)** Kurt Harvill, Assistant Superintendent, 214 W. Laurel Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226. 360-398-7111.

Section 504 questions can be directed to Aaron Jacoby, Director of Special Services, 214 W. Laurel Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226. 360-398-7111.