

Grassroots School

Freedom and Democracy in Education Since 1972

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A Nonprofit 501(c)3 School

2021-2022 School Year Information for Grassroots Families

(version 7-19-21)

Welcome!...and Welcome Back! Following are some points of information and standard operating procedures you should know about if you are a new family or be reminded of if you are a returning family.

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

The **SCHOOL DAY** is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students may arrive as early as 9:15 a.m. and leave as late as 3:15 p.m. without being charged for extended care.

- Students should check in and out with a staff person and also check in and out on the sign-in sheet located on the clipboard on front porch.
- Please let us know if anyone other than you is picking up your child in writing or by email. Please don't communicate through the students ("My mom says it's OK" can end up causing problems for everyone.).

CLEAN-UP begins at 2:30 p.m. All students are expected to participate in clean-up.

EXTENDED CARE is available at the school from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at additional cost (see the Fee Information handout for details).

- Students/parents should sign in and out with the time(s) noted on the sign-in sheet located on front porch if arriving before 9:15 a.m. or leaving after 3:15 p.m.

POW-WOW: Wednesdays at 12:00 noon. POW-WOWs are where announcements are made, rules made and changed, and disputes brought up and addressed. Parents/guardians are welcome to come too!

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF: No parking in the pick-up and drop-off area. Please park across the street even if staying briefly. For everyone's safety, we ask adults as well as kids to cross from the parking area at the crosswalk.

- Children under the age of 7 are not allowed to cross at the crosswalk without adult supervision.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

NOTES HOME are weekly schedules that include all the planned activities for the upcoming week, as well as some announcements. NOTES HOME are posted on the bulletin board in the Entry, and are also e-mailed to families weekly.

Please note that all official communications from Grassroots will come from the email grassrootsschool@gmail.com.

Additional information regarding upcoming events or other information may be emailed to families.

Information is also posted on the bulletin board and notice board. Students and families should check the bulletin board and notice board regularly.

FAMILY MEETINGS: Family meetings are held monthly, either in the evening at 6 p.m. (with social at 5:30 p.m.) OR on a Saturday morning. Parents/guardians will be emailed with the date/time of each upcoming family meeting. Grassroots School values the opinions of parents/guardians. Grassroots Family Meetings are an important place where decisions about our ongoing procedures are made. Please come to these meetings and contribute your voice and perspectives.

DIRECTORS MEETINGS: Directors meetings are held monthly, on the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. Directors meetings consider financial, legal, regulatory and long range planning issues in preparation for discussions and voting at the family meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTICIPATION: All parents/guardians are expected to contribute 20 hours per school year.

- Parent participation may take the form of school improvement/cleaning. A list of needed jobs is posted by the telephone. Once completed, parents should place a mark (one mark per hour) on the parent/guardian participation sheet located by the telephone.
- Parent participation may also take the form of teaching or facilitating a project with the students. Please let the staff know in advance what you are planning so that your class or project can be included on the schedule for that week.

In addition to the above, parents/guardians and families are encouraged to come out and just hang around, or participate in the classes/projects, or simply eat lunch or take a walk with your special child. The most "educational" activity we can encourage is adults spending non-pressured time with their children. Much research corroborates this! In a world gone mad with schedules, anything we can do to help families spend time together is well worth the effort. Come on out in the cracks of your hectic schedule and take a stroll with, or share a sandwich with, or give a hug to your child. Certainly your child, probably you, and perhaps the world will be better off as a result of those few precious moments...and such opportunities not honored and taken advantage of are lost forever. COME ON OUT! (*tis magic here!)

LUNCH: Please don't send items in glass. Send spoons/forks if necessary. Put your child's name on containers you hope to continue using. Note that lunch must be eaten on the front porch or outside, as food and drink are not permitted inside the building (in the case of inclement or cold weather, students may eat in Project Area).

LOST AND FOUND: is on the shelves on the front porch. All items not claimed after one month become property of the school to deal with as seems appropriate.

HEALTH: Students are not to be sent to school with anything INFECTIOUS or CONTAGIOUS (except laughter and inquisitiveness!). If a student becomes ill at school, parents/guardians will be notified to pick up the student from school.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Parents/guardians are considered volunteer staff at Grassroots; therefore, students who stay home from school are still considered in attendance because they are with a Grassroots staff member.

- **BACKGROUND SCREENINGS:** As required by law, all school employees must have a VECHS Level 2 background check. Per our attendance policy, one parent/guardian from each household must have a background check through our OCA (Controlling Agency Identifier) on file at the school.

DISCIPLINE ISSUES

Parents/guardians will be called if there is a serious disciplinary issue regarding their child. Staff will work with parents/guardians towards appropriate resolution.

If ever necessary, disciplinary procedures prior to expulsion of a Grassroots student are as follows:

- Serious health/safety violation(s) lead, at the discretion of staff, to immediate expulsion. Parents/guardians of the student may appeal to a Family Meeting for reinstatement.
- (2) Lesser inappropriate behavior goes first to Pow-Wow for a vote on appropriate consequences regarding the violation.
 - If there is noncompliance with the consequences by the next Pow-Wow, the student receives an added consequence of 30 minutes school improvement.
 - If noncompliance persists, the student must leave the school until s/he presents a written plan--which must be accepted by Pow-Wow vote--stating (a) how the inappropriate behavior is to be controlled, and (b) what the consequence(s) will be that will insure that the inappropriate behavior stops.

MANDATORY REPORTING

State law requires that any reports of potential abuse (physical, verbal, or sexual) involving a child be immediately reported to the Division of Children and Families (DCF). DCF will then dictate the subsequent steps that must be taken.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

If a parent/guardian has a concern or issue that requires resolution, please speak directly with the school administrator.

WAYS TO HELP: Grassroots School has state and federal NON-PROFIT status, so any donations to the school are tax-deductible. If you can help us with fund-raising, please let us know! Organizers of any school fund-raisers are entitled to 20% of profits.

- For sale at the school:
 - Grassroots auto tags are \$3. They help us advertise the school.
- Save your Box Tops for Education. There is a jar in entry for collecting these.

HERE'S TO A GREAT YEAR TO ALL!!