



12/18/2020

Dear Gateway Families

As we head into the break, I am appreciative of all of our families for choosing Gateway. We are a school of choice, and we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality education. We are celebrating the holiday season at Gateway with tons of cheer and good tidings. Our teachers participated in a door decorating contest (Click [HERE](#) to see pictures). Each pod in the school had a theme. Teachers K-12 participated in this event. Our whole campus is a winter wonderland. We are so blessed to have such wonderful teachers and staff that create the atmosphere that students need to enjoy their educational experience. Thanks to all of our students and families for recognizing our teachers' hard work this semester. I am the proudest of principals this season. As we go into a new year I wanted to give you some important notifications.

Covid Reporting

We will still require our families to report any positive tests for COVID, or close contacts. We especially need to know if a student was at campus this week and later tests positive for COVID. We are required to report this to our community, do contact tracing, and report to Williamson County and City Health District. In order to give our hard working staff a bit of a break this holiday season, I ask that all of this reporting be sent directly to me at benjamin.boorman@orendaeducation.org. Thanks for your diligence in reporting. We have seen quite a few less cases on campus than many other surrounding schools. This is due to our families and their willingness to follow protocol.

Virtual Days

The TEA has allowed all districts to select virtual only days to give teachers more time to plan. We are currently looking into which days would be best for our entire district and will communicate these days with you soon. We are looking at possibly one extra day per month. On these days, we will still provide child care for families who need it, however, the students will not be in a classroom with their teacher and will need to participate asynchronously.

Also, the TEA has required that all students must take the STAAR tests this year on campus. Due to this, we have adjusted our benchmark testing to mirror STAAR testing. Due to social distancing restrictions, we will need more rooms and more staff than ever before. In order to accommodate for this we will be using 1st and 2nd grade teachers and classrooms to test. On March 9th and 10th, we will ask that all 1st and 2nd grade students participate asynchronously at home. We will provide child care for those who need it, but your child will not be in their regularly scheduled classroom with their teacher on those days. This will take place again during the STAAR administration on May 11th and 12th. We will reevaluate our number of on-campus testers

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after the benchmark and communicate with families if anything should change. However, we wanted to give ample notice of these virtual days so families could prepare.

Food Service

We have listened to feedback, and it is clear that our families and students would like more options of food in the cafeteria and more convenience for ordering. Starting January 5th we will offer new ordering methods. You may order by the month, the week, or daily ordering. You will see the weekly and monthly ordering options on our Jot Form (Click [HERE](#)). To place your daily order simply notify your teacher before 8:45am that day. We will deliver lunch to the student's homeroom for grades K-4. Students in grades 5-12 will go through the lunch line if they want lunch and do not need to pre-order. Just make sure to keep your PayPams account stocked or send in money to the drop box in the Student Union.

We will have a weekly rotation of food offerings. Here is the weekly schedule:

- Mondays - Burger, chips, drink and fruit - \$3.50
- Tuesday - Ground Beef Soft Tacos, spanish rice, drink and fruit \$3.50
- Wednesday - Beef Lasagna, corn, drink and fruit \$3.50
- Thursday - Orange Chicken, white rice, drink and fruit \$3.50
- Friday - Pizza Day (K-4 will need to place order by Wednesday with their teacher)

We hope that many more families will choose this healthy, and convenient ordering system to boost our cafeteria sales. We love our food services department. Please contact myself or Lou Pena with suggestions for how we may improve.

Grades

We are so proud that our students took advantage of the make-up work opportunity over Thanksgiving break. Many students' grades have improved. Some students will still see their grades might be lower than they are used to. Please know that we are going to take the following actions to ensure that every student at Gateway College Prep will have an individualized credit recovery program to get them to graduate on time.

All high school students who may not have the ability to pass a course for the year will be allowed to start credit recovery early before summer school begins. This will be addressed by the Director of Student Services and the Head of High School for approval. We will create a plan that will allow all of our students to stay on grade level to get through this time of remote learning.

We will begin pre-registration for summer school early this year in January. We will accommodate as many students as we need to in June. There will be no cap on enrollment for summer school and, if we need to, we will add sessions to allow students to have more time to make up work. Please talk to our Head of High School or Director of Student Services about credit options before making any decisions about your student's educational future.

Open Enrollment

Remember, all families must notify us of their intent to return to Gateway each year. Once you are in, your spot is reserved for the duration of your child's K-12 experience. However, you must fill out your intent to return during the month of January. This year, we will be utilizing a Google Form for our families who intend

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to return. This will help eliminate confusion. Families who are applying to get into Gateway for the 2021-2022 school year will fill out the form in Integrity 6. Those families that are simply stating their intent to return will fill out the Google Form. These forms are available on our website now and will be active on January 1st. There will be multiple reminders, but get it done early.

It has been a tough year, but we have grown so much. I am looking forward to the day when we are able to look back on this year as only a memory. This will continue to be my wish as we head into 2021. We hope that your family enjoys this holiday season. Make memories, share joy, and come back to us refreshed. We still have great things to look forward to in this school year.

Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Boorman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Boorman
Head of School
benjamin.boorman@orendaeducation.org

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