



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DoDEA Americas / Mid-Atlantic Region
Fort Bragg Schools
 Gordon Elementary School
 4200 Percy Blvd.
 Cameron, NC 28326

August 2021

Dear Patriot Family,

Welcome Back! We hope that you and your family had a memorable summer break. We are so excited to get this **Extraordinary** school year started!

We have had a big change this summer, as we have had to say good-bye to Ms. Blount, our Assistant Principal, and WELCOME Ms. Monika Kerner as our NEW Patriot Assistant Principal.

Ms. Kerner comes to us from Devers Elementary School and has several years of experience as an Assistant Principal. We are so happy to have her join our Gordon Family!

We also have a NEW Patriot Secretary, Ms. Rhonda Zimmerman. She has been with us for a couple of weeks and is learning a lot. Please don't hesitate to give her a call if you have any questions.

Everyone at school has been bustling about ensuring that we are ready for our young Patriots with plans and procedures in place to ensure the health and safety for all! We are confident that we are prepared to welcome our Patriot Families back to school.

Teachers have been working on engaging lessons and are spending some time in Professional Development sessions to continue their learning with the Social Studies College and Career Standards and curriculum materials. This is sure to be another year filled with new, great educational experiences around every corner. I am certain that you will see student-centered, engaging, differentiated learning in all classroom environments for our students. This year promises to be exciting.



We continue to have procedures and routines in place to mitigate the potential spreading of COVID-19. Unfortunately, we will need to continue to limit the number of visitors in our building during the day.

ALL Faculty, Staff, Students, and Visitors will be expected to wear face coverings upon entering the building. We will continue with social distancing of at least 3 feet in the classroom and 6 feet in common areas, including the lunchroom.



When students are outside, and 6 feet of distance can be maintained, they will be permitted to take their masks off.



Our Mid-Atlantic Superintendent, Dr. Donato Cuadrado, and Dr. Angie Lamonski, Mid-Atlantic Chief of Staff, will be conducting a Live Q & A event on Facebook addressing frequently asked questions regarding the fast approaching school year. This event will be held on the Mid-Atlantic District Facebook page via Livestream on 8/18/21 at 1:00 PM. Topics will include information on mask wearing, lunch procedures, sports, guidance on minimizing gatherings, etc. If you cannot view the live event, the Livestream will be available to view later.



Again this year, DoDEA is requiring all students to have a Home Screening Acknowledgement on file. This form DOES NOT have to be completed daily. It only has to be completed one time as a pledge that parents will ensure they are screening their children on a daily basis for any sign of illness before sending them to school. You will find this form also attached. **Please make sure we have this completed form on file for each of your Patriot students by Friday, August 27th.**



1st Day Arrival Procedures

On August 23rd (for 1st through 5th Grade) and August 24th (for Kindergarten students) we will meet children outside. PLEASE make sure that all children and adults have face coverings and maintain social distancing in order to keep everyone safe. Meeting the children outside and ushering them in as a class will allow the students to be able to find their classroom teacher and be escorted to their new classrooms. This will help alleviate those first day jitters. 😊 **Again, we ask that everyone have face coverings and maintain social distancing so that our first day of school can get off to a successful start.**



Arrival and dismissal throughout the year will continue as in the previous school year.

During Arrival:

Those eating breakfast will arrive beginning at 8:00 AM and enter the doors under the covered walk-way closest to the gym.

Those students not eating breakfast will arrive beginning at 8:15 AM. Third through Fifth Grade students will enter the school using the doors on the Yellow Hall, which is the hallway where their classrooms are located. Our Kindergarten through 2nd Grade will enter through the Main Entrance doors and proceed to their classrooms.

****Our Pre-Kindergarten Team will be discussing the arrival and dismissal of our youngest Patriots with Pre-K Parents before the start of this program.****

During Dismissal:

All Parents/Guardians should have Identification ready to present. We do 100% ID checks each day.

District Policy prohibits having pets on campus, please refrain from bringing your pet on campus when picking up your child(ren).

We will be utilizing a number system very similar to what we used last year. Each family will be assigned a number. Each child in the family will have the number attached to their backpack and parents will have a car tag with the same number. When arriving to pick up students, either from the car rider line, or the walker line, parents will show the number and their photo ID. Students will be called to come to the respective line for pick up.



Please plan to come and pick up your family number from the Front Office on Thursday, August 19th or Friday, August 20th. Numbers will be available for distribution from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM each day.



Due to the continued impact from COVID-19, we will not be able to host our traditional Open House. However, we are planning for a Remote Meet and Greet just like we did last year! 😊 We hope all of our Patriot families will participate in our Remote Meet and Greet on **Friday, August 21, 2020 from 3:30 – 5:30 PM!** Please continue to monitor your e-mail for more information in the coming days on when and how to log on to meet the teacher!



just some general housekeeping reminders:

- We will continue to have a monthly school newsletter so that we can keep you updated on the wonderful events happening at Gordon Elementary School!
- Each teacher will establish a weekly communication method in order to keep you updated as to what is happening in the classroom
- We hope you will  Like us on  as another way to keep you updated on the happenings at Gordon!
- Wednesday is an early release day for us again this year, so remember that our day ends one hour earlier (at 1:55) every Wednesday.
- Please make sure family contact information and emergency contact information is up to date in our system. This is very important in the case of an emergency; we want to make sure our communications with you are not delayed.
- Please make sure you are observant of the crosswalk areas before and after school as our little ones are arriving and leaving campus. We want to make sure everyone is safe!
- **Drop off at the back/side of the campus is discouraged. If you are driving your child(ren) to school, please use our drop-off line in the front of the building. The back/side area is for those families who walk to school.**
- When walking your children to and from school, please adhere to the District Policy, and keep your pets at home. We cannot have them on campus.
- We will continue to practice our emergency drills throughout the school year. These include fire, tornado, lockdown, and evacuation drills.

Every year is a special year for our kiddos and this year will prove to be special in so many ways. We have some great things in store! Being a Gordon Patriot is **Extraordinary!**

Dr. Lisa McGee
Principal

Ms. Monika Kerner
Assistant Principal