

Ashbrook Compass



Bienvenue and Bienvenidos to the 2021 virtual Foreign Language Festival! This year the French and Spanish classes would like to share with the school community what they have been working on in the language classroom. This is a small way for us to celebrate the linguistic diversity at our school, in our community and beyond. We have also included the folder from last week's Chinese New Year celebration. Enjoy the performances [HERE](#) (link disabled)!

Madame/Señora Burand
French and Spanish teacher

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE - 2021

Next Week:

Feb 25-26 -- 4th-8th grade - No School, Teacher In-service

Upcoming Dates (updated, more information below):

March 3 -- PTO Meeting via Zoom, 9 am

March 8 -- (tentative) 4th and 5th grades return

March 12 -- Grade Day, NO SCHOOL

March 15 -- (tentative) 6th grade returns

March 16 -- Founder's Day

March 18 -- Half day, DISMISSAL at 12 noon, Conferences 1-6 pm

March 19 -- Conferences 8 am - 2 pm, NO SCHOOL

March 22-26 -- Spring Break, NO SCHOOL

March 29 -- (tentative) 7th and 8th grades return

Updated 4th-8th Return Timeline

The COVID case rates in Benton County have started to decline this week, however, we have not yet dropped below 200 cases per 100,000 in order to transition our next cohort. **4th-8th grade families, please complete THIS SURVEY about your family's plans for returning.** Here is the updated tentative timeline:

2/25 & 2/26: 4th-8th grade - No School, Teacher In-service

3/8: (tentative) 4th and 5th grade returns

3/15: (tentative) 6th grade returns

3/29: (tentative) 7th and 8th grade returns

Middle School parents may want to re-visit the Return to School portion of our website [HERE](#) and download the Daily Health Screen Tool [HERE](#). The lunch sign-up form for the remainder of the year is [HERE](#).

Uniforms for 4th-8th Grades

As we continue to prepare for 4th-8th graders to return to in-person classes this spring, we realize families would likely need to purchase new uniform clothes for their growing students who have been out of the building since last March. With the short time ahead for these grades to be on campus, we have decided to offer our 4th-8th grade students the opportunity to wear Friday Dress Code for the remainder of the school year. In September, we will return to regular uniform wear. Per our family handbook, the Friday Dress Code requirements are below. If a student has trouble following these expectations then they will be directed to return to uniform wear.

Dress Code Requirements:

- All clothing should be modest, good condition, fit properly, and free of unsafe accessories.
 - No holes in shorts/pants
 - No bare midriffs/shoulders
 - Knee to mid-length shorts/skirts
 - Clothing should be neat, clean, and appropriate to the program of the day
 - Hats or hoods may not be on inside the building
 - Closed-toe shoes or sandals securely fastened around the foot
 - Leggings/yoga pants should be worn with shorts, skirt, long shirt, or jumper over them
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Congratulations Math Counts participants!

Kai Yamashita, Elizabeth Li, Yeats Becker-Blease, Abe Tsai, Natalie Yong, Keira Lin, and Alison Li all competed in the Math Counts Chapter Competition last Friday. Kai got the top score in our Mid-Willamette Valley Chapter which included all of Clackamas County this year (West Linn and Lake Oswego Schools). Both Kai and Elizabeth qualified to advance to the Chapter Invitational Competition on February 25th, where they will compete to qualify for the State Competition. All participants were valiant competitors representing Ashbrook in Math Counts this year and their efforts were greatly appreciated! Also, thank you Yoshi Yamashita for providing excellent Friday coaching sessions since October 2020.

Enrollment Season Begins Next Week!

Next week you will receive an email with information regarding enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. **Please read the following regarding tuition for the next year.**

In past years tuition has increased in relation to inflation for operational costs of running the school (typically around 5% per year). This year, the Board recognized the strain the pandemic has put on our families and our learning environment so they are going with a minimal increase of 3%. As the economy improves and Ashbrook is consistently providing in-person learning for all in the 2022-2023 school year, they will likely need to consider a larger tuition increase to help sustain the school financially moving forward.

Given the promise of a broader vaccination rollout and a full return to in-person learning in the 2021-2022 school year, the pay as you go or tiered tuition rates will not be available during the next school year; those rates were temporary to help our families during the pandemic. Should the state of in-person learning need to change in 2021-2022, the Board will reassess the needs of the Ashbrook Community and adjust accordingly.

See the [Preschool Through 8th Grade Payment Options Grid for 2021-2022](#).

2021-2022 Calendar

The full 21-22 school year calendar is currently under review. The following important dates are finalized for the 21-22 school year:

September 8, 2021 = First Day of School, ½ Day

December 20-31, 2021 = Winter Break

March 21-25, 2022 = Spring Break

June 17, 2022 = Last Day of School, ½ Day

March PTO meeting

Come one, come all to the next PTO meeting! We'd love to have you join us and learn more about the PTO. Our next event is Staff Appreciation.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am on Zoom.

Date: Wednesday, March 3

Time: 9:00 am

Explorers Fund Update

Although you can donate to Ashbrook at any time, our big push for the Explorers Fund will end on February 28. We are so close to our goal--**only \$11,830 away** from qualifying for the \$60,000 in matching funds! Any donation--big or small--is greatly appreciated, especially as we start to bring more students back into the school safely.

If you plan to donate later this spring and want to be counted toward our matching goal, you can make a pledge now and fulfill it any time before July 31. Email Ms. Tynon to pledge an amount; click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page on the Ashbrook website where you can donate via credit card or EFT/ACH (there is a small payment processing fee); or mail a check directly to the school marked ATTN. Explorers Fund. Ashbrook Independent School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and gifts may be tax deductible.

Staffing Update

Josh Tunnissen, our IT Specialist, has been offered a career opportunity at OSU and hopes to take the position next month. We have been thrilled to have had this last year with Josh--especially with his extra work with supporting our return to school this year--so he will be greatly missed! See his message below and join me in congratulating Josh on his new career advancement and thanking him for his time at Ashbrook.

"Good afternoon everyone,

As some of you may have heard, I've recently been offered and accepted a position at OSU's College of Engineering as their Technical Services Coordinator. While this position is a big change I'm excited to take the next step in my career path.

I'll be staying on here at Ashbrook for at least another month in order to make the transition as smooth as possible. I'll be helping to find a replacement as well as ensure they are brought up to speed with how everything works here.

I'm honestly very sad to make this announcement as I've greatly enjoyed my time working here with you all. Thank you all again for everything. - Josh"

Current students and Alumni news

Mark your calendars for the Corvallis Youth Symphony Association's annual "Classical Cabaret online edition! - A Night of CYSA Stars" on March 13 at 7pm. The virtual concert will feature performances from all of their programs including the Corvallis Youth Symphony, the Willamette Valley Junior Honors Symphony, and Elementary Strings. Current AIS students and AIS alumni are in the Symphony and the Junior Honors Symphony.

You can purchase tickets and register for the event at <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/Cabaret2021/register>. Suggested ticket price: \$10 for individual, \$30 for household. The Cabaret concert will be viewable from March 13 at 7pm through March 21. All ticket sales and donations for Cabaret go to supporting CYSA's programs and scholarships for students.

Current COVID Metrics

At this time, Benton County is in the orange category with 287 cases per 100,000 for the 1/31/20 - 2/13/21 time frame. ODE and OHA advise that elementary schools can prioritize careful phasing in of on-site or hybrid learning with county case rates less than 350 over a

2-week period, and schools are not advised to reduce in-person learning or return to distance learning based on metrics as long as the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment.

Metrics are released every Monday. For a complete guide to the current metrics, please visit www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf