

Ashbrook Compass



Advice from a SNOWFLAKE

Keep your cool
Appreciate small wonders
Let your plans crystallize
Take time to chill
Sparkle!
Celebrate your uniqueness
It's OK to be a little flaky!



Dear Families,

We welcomed back our K-3rd graders this week, only to find ourselves back home again mid-week for our first snow day of the school year! We are learning to expect the unexpected around here. Keeping our cool during times such as these not only helps us adults stay positive, but we also know our students are watching our every move...so cool we will be!

Every day our teachers work hard to provide a challenging learning environment for our students, both online and in-person. This is evident in the level of engagement we see with our students and the high quality work they are producing as a result. Our mission is to challenge AND nurture, and this week we saw teachers in middle school releasing classes early on Tuesday to allow the students time to spend outside in the fresh snow. 3rd graders went outside as a class to enjoy the winter wonderland while simultaneously learning about force...throwing snowballs of course! Lower school teachers extended their recess breaks to allow their students more time to soak in (literally!) the joy of falling snow. Ashbrook teachers know just how to balance work with fun, and more often than not you will see our students doing both at the same time!

Rachel Sechler
Interim Head of School

Dear Ashbrook Family,

I hope this finds you well. With 2020 behind us, I am very excited to focus more of my attention on my future in Oregon and on joining the Ashbrook community!

As an important step in my transitioning to Ashbrook's Head of School's Office, I'd enjoy a chance to connect with you, our current parents and students. Frankly, I'd find this an invaluable opportunity to get to know you and your family and to understand your hopes and dreams (and concerns) for Ashbrook.

As a general prompt, we can begin with "What are your hopes for Ashbrook 2021-22?" or you can share your favorite family story or Ashbrook moment.

If you are free, please consider joining me for a parent/student Zoom "Coffee with Chris" on either Wednesday, 2/10 or Tuesday, 2/16, 6:00-7:45pm: stay for all or part of the time. Please also reach out to me via my Ashbrook email if you'd like to talk one-on-one.

If you cannot make any of these times, I look forward to seeing you and your child(ren) when I visit in the spring.

All my best to you and your family,

Dr. Chris Schoberl
Incoming Head of School

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE - 2021

Next Week:

Feb 3 -- PTO meeting via Zoom

Feb 5 -- Middle School 'B Week' schedule

Upcoming Dates:

Feb 12 -- Middle School 'A Week' schedule

Feb 15 -- President's Day, NO SCHOOL

Lower School Concert

It's time for the Lower School concert! This virtual music event includes clips from our K-4 Zoom music lessons during January and December. You will see notion practice, singing, recorders, and ear training activities that we explored during online school. We hope you enjoy this peek into music time!

The video is available to enjoy until Friday, February 5!

New Attendance Email Address

We have a new attendance email address for your ease in letting us know about upcoming appointments, early pick-ups, or absences for your student.

To pick up your student early, please email both attendance and your student's teacher with the time and date in advance. Once you arrive, call 541-766-8313 from the parking lot and we will walk your student out.

If your student is arriving late or returning from an appointment, please come into the Commons and Office staff will help you.

Thank you for helping us minimize interruptions in the classroom.

Ashbrook News and Notes--are you on the list?

Later tonight, we will send the very first Ashbrook News and Notes to everyone with an email address who has supported Ashbrook. We plan to send out News and Notes 3 times a year to keep donors and supporters better informed about what is happening in and around Ashbrook. Most of the stories will be similar to what you see in the Compass, but if you would like to receive News and Notes or know someone who would like to receive it (such as a Grandparent or Alumni/Alumnus), please email our update email address.

Explorers Fund Update

We need another \$16,600 in donations to qualify for matching funds from the Board of Trustees and an anonymous donor!

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.

Current COVID Metrics

At this time, Benton County is in the orange category with 274 cases per 100,000 for the 1/10/20 - 1/23/21 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

Beyond Ashbrook

Jackson Street Youth Services is in need of mentors for youth who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, or LGBTQIA+. JSYS gives vulnerable youth in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties a safe place to live and resources that get them on the road to a better life. Responsible adults make a one-year mentoring commitment to spend at least 4 hours per month providing one-on-one guidance and support. Training is provided. Visit <https://www.jacksonstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/Mentoring-Prgm-Interest-Form-52020.pdf> to express interest.
