

Ashbrook Compass



June 4, 2021

Dear Ashbrook Community,

Is it really June already?! Wow, what a year it has been! We have been fortunate to have an incredibly successful 20-21 school year despite all of the many curve balls thrown our way this year. After spending all summer planning for our return to school during a global pandemic and then facing smoke and nearby fires during the first days of school, I often wondered what other obstacles we would encounter this year. Through it all, our dedicated educators persisted, our parents supported, and our students were resilient. Because of this, we succeeded. Thank you for the role you each played in helping this year run smoothly, safely, and most of all for keeping our students learning!

As of today, I will no longer be present in the building for these final weeks of school as we will be welcoming our new baby boy into the world this weekend. I will continue to stay connected remotely through these last weeks and the summer, so do not hesitate to reach out, but know that I may take a little longer to respond to emails or may forward your questions on to someone in the office who can respond faster.

Thank you to everyone for a year we will never forget.

Sincerely,
Rachel Sechler
Interim Head of School

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE – 2021



Mrs. Capps' Sewing Class made custom onesies for Mrs. Sechler's new baby!

Next Week:

June 11 -- Middle School B Week

Upcoming Dates:

June 16 -- Field Day (more info below)

June 17 -- 8th grade graduation, 1 pm (more info below)

June 17 -- Last Day of After School Care

June 18 -- Last Day of School; half-day, pick-up at 12 noon

Summer Dates to note:

June 4 - August 20 -- Rachel Sechler on maternity leave

June 21 - August 20 -- Office on Summer Hours, Mon-Fri, 9 am - 2 pm

July 1 -- 'Doc' Schoberl starts at Ashbrook

July 5-9 -- Office closed

July 26 - 30 -- Office closed

August 23 -- Office back to regular hours, Mon-Fri, 8 am - 4 pm

[2021-22 School Year Event Calendar \(DRAFT\)](#)

Staffing Update

We want to keep our community informed about new changes in staffing at Ashbrook. The following two new hires are already beginning training and observations in the school in order to ensure a smooth transition for both staff and students.



School Secretary

Greetings to all,

My name is Rachael, and I will be joining Ashbrook Independent School as the new School Secretary!

I moved here from Eugene in the summer of 2020. I have been fortunate enough to serve a broad spectrum of populations during my time there, including seniors in Memory Care centers and at-risk youth and their families. I possess a deep passion for helping foster strong relationships between the members of a community and the institutions that serve them. I look forward to learning from the knowledge and expertise of not only the fine educators here, but of the students and families who make up the Ashbrook community as well!

In my free time, I enjoy camping trips, playing board games, cooking, singing and helping my partner wrangle a silly and energetic 3-year-old German Shepherd named Zora.

I feel very fortunate that this new chapter of my life begins at Ashbrook, and I look forward to meeting all of you this school year!

Have a good day!

Miss Rachael



Music Teacher

Hi everyone! My name is Dante Hoge. I'm so excited to join the phenomenal team of educators at Ashbrook!

I am an Oregonian native. I grew up in Eugene and have spent most of my life in the central/southern Willamette Valley. I currently live in Corvallis with my fiancé and we couldn't be more happy to settle down here!

It seems like fate that I ended up at Ashbrook, as I live only a few blocks away and run past Ashbrook on my daily runs. I frequently glanced over and admired the beautiful building, and thought it would be a dream to teach there! And when the music teacher position opened up, I was ecstatic! Olivia has done such an amazing job in her years at Ashbrook and I couldn't be more honored to receive the torch from her.

I'm looking forward to meeting all the other educators! I've heard such great things. I'm also looking forward to meeting the exceptional students. I so admired their artwork on display during my first visit at Ashbrook.

I have two degrees from the University of Oregon: A Bachelors of Music Education and a Bachelors of Music in clarinet performance. I can't wait to make beautiful music with the young minds of Ashbrook!

For fun, I love to go running and do anything and everything outside. From rafting to camping under the stars, I love being outside! I'm also the biggest Star Wars nerd you'll ever meet. So if you think you know more than me, come see me and put your trivia knowledge to the test.

I'm so excited to meet everyone at Ashbrook! See you all soon!

Mr. Hoge (pronounced like the sandwich)

IT Support Specialist

We are continuing with interviews for this position and will provide an update when a hire is finalized.

Beginning School Assistant Teacher

We have posted the position for an additional beginning school assistant teacher and will plan to screen applications/complete interviews closer to July depending on enrollment. Because the beginning school's enrollment has increased significantly and due to childcare requirements around student/teacher ratio, we are preparing for needing this additional staff member. Yay!

Board of Trustees Update

In keeping with our practice of open and transparent communication with the Ashbrook community, here are the highlights from the Board of Trustees regular monthly meeting from May 20, 2021.

1. The Board completed its annual strategic planning meeting for AY21-22 in the middle of May. During the Board meeting, Trustees reviewed the outcomes that were derived during the planning meeting. The Board will be communicating more details of those plans closer to the Fall and will be looking for support from the Ashbrook Community; more to come!
2. There is continued interest in enrollment for the next academic year. The Summer Camp is full for pre-school and pre-K. The Writing Workshop is filling up quickly. We anticipate that these two programs will give families that are not currently a part of the Ashbrook Community an opportunity to get to know us better and to consider Ashbrook as an option for their child during the school year. Please pass along the Writing Workshop opportunity on to other parents in your network!
3. The Board reviewed Q3 financials and performance to budget.
4. During the Board's annual strategic planning meeting, we reviewed the results of a safety audit that had been completed on the school (A big thank you to Ashbrook Parent, Mitch Sechler, for sharing his expertise in this area!). During the Board meeting, we prioritized 4 key items to take action on to continue to improve school safety.
5. The Board is excited to announce that we are looking for parents to join us on the Board. We are looking for additional resources and expertise in the areas of Marketing (traditional, social, word of mouth), Finance, Law and Education. We are expanding the Board with the following objectives in mind:
 - Increasing our subject matter expertise in the areas noted: Marketing, Finance, Law and Education
 - Increasing bandwidth so we can go faster in achieving strategic objectives set by the Board and designed to meet the needs of the Ashbrook Community
 - Plan for natural attrition of Board members as their children graduate from Ashbrook should a Board Member decide to end their term at that time

If you have interest in joining the Ashbrook Board and have expertise in the noted areas, please send an email to board@ashbrookschool.org.

Field Day splashes into Ashbrook on June 16!

The end of the year is upon us, which means FIELD DAY is just around the corner! This year's Field Day will happen on Wednesday, June 16 and it will be a TROPICAL theme! We will still be following all of Ashbrook's COVID safety protocols as students move through

their stations. Although we can't have parent volunteers at the event this year, the entire Ashbrook staff is stepping up to make sure the students have the same amount of "fun in the sun" as in previous years.

Field Day will be from 8:30 to 12:00 and we anticipate the day to be HOT! Here are some items Ms. Weber suggests sending with your student to prepare them for the day:

- Water bottle - There will be bottle fill stations throughout the station rotations when they need to refill!
- Sun protection - Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen students can apply themselves (no spray sunscreens)
- Tropical-theme clothes and shoes they don't mind getting messy and/or wet
- Extra masks

Finally, we are looking for more pop up tents to provide spaced out shade for the students. If your family has a tent we could use for the event, please email Ms. Weber at kweber@ashbrookschool.org.

8th Grade Graduation is almost here!

The 8th grade graduation is scheduled for June 17 at 1 p.m. in the front parking area. After surveying the 8th grade families, it was clear that an outdoor ceremony would allow every family to feel comfortable participating.

The approximately 75-minute live ceremony will be streamed into the classrooms so all Ashbrook students can watch. Only graduate families, staff, and the Board of Trustees will be allowed to attend the event in-person, but a recording of the live ceremony will be combined with additional pre-recorded segments into one YouTube video that can be shared with the larger Ashbrook Community.

The parking area should be clear before afternoon pick-up starts.

Hot Lunch Program Survey -- Please respond by Monday

Thank you to everyone who has responded so far to our survey on the 21-22 Hot Lunch Program. We would like to collect all responses by Monday, June 7. The quick 3-minute survey can be found [HERE](#).

Ashbrook Mask Policy Continues

While we acknowledge that there have been a lot of changes to the statewide mask policy, masks will continued to be required at Ashbrook through the end of the year.

Enrollment Update

We will provide regular updates to our school community regarding student enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year. Here is the current availability for each grade:

Grade	PS	PK	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Spots available	7*	6*	8	8	7	4	6	10	12	3	6

*PS/PK are now able to be separate programs due to the high interest in enrollment.

2021-22 Enrollment Links:

[Family Handbook](#)
[Enrollment Contract](#)
[Payment Plans](#)

Deadlines:

6/15 - Early bird discount for lump sum tuition payments due

6/30 - Lump sum tuition payments due

8/2 - 10-month payment plan begins

If you have questions regarding tuition payments, payment plans, tuition insurance, or financial aid please contact Elaine Pettigrew - accounting@ashbrookschool.org

Recommend Ashbrook and Receive \$100 as a Thank You

Recommendations are the #1 reason other families come to Ashbrook. If you refer a family to Ashbrook and they go through the Admissions process, we will give you a \$100 credit toward your tuition or a \$100 gift card to your favorite store!

Summer Writing Workshop -- early bird pricing ends June 19

Ashbrook is offering a Summer Writer's Workshop for current 4th-8th grade students. Students are invited to take any or all of the 4 weeks offered; the units run July 19-August 13, meeting 5 days a week, 8:30am to 12:30pm. Spots are still available! For more information, click [HERE](#) for the full information flyer or complete the registration form [HERE](#).

Current COVID Information

At this time, Benton County has 67 cases per 100,000 for the 5/16/21 - 5/30/21 time frame.

If your student has been exposed to COVID, your student MUST quarantine for 14 days.

[Benton County Health letter on new quarantine guidelines](#)

[Benton County Health Quarantine Visual Quick Guide](#)