

Ashbrook Compass



September 2, 2021

Dear Ashbrook Family,

This will be my 55th First Day of School, and this day still gets me excited by the prospect of seeing old friends and making new friends; meeting teachers; and the unexplainable appeal of brand new pencils, gum erasers, notebooks, and file folders (and for no identifiable reason, I was always a little nervous I'd throw up in front of strangers, and still am, a little bit). From my senior year in high school, all the way back to first grade, the first homework assignment I could count on was to take my books home and cover them.

There was a great comfort that came from this predictability, and years later at a reunion, my classmates and I admitted that we looked forward to it, though we never would have said as much, at the time. While some kids bought actual covers made for the purpose, my brothers and I learned the fine art of book-covering from a pro: my Mom. After dinner after that first day of school, the table was cleared, and out came the tape, scissors, crayons and markers, and those brown paper bags also used to carry groceries. While my three brothers and I watched, my Mom, with the dexterity of a surgeon and the magic of an alchemist, upcycled these materials into one covered book for each of us, as a model of what we were aiming for.

It took us hours to cover four more books each, and while we never reached Mom caliber covers, the pride that came from trying was the first moment of perseverance and success we experienced each year. Like that clean, untouched book cover and the new school supplies, the year before us was a clean slate promise, a fresh start, and the first day of the rest of our lives, and we were more certain, than at any other point in the year, that we were going to absolutely crush the 3rd grade. I hope that each of our students is as excited about the first day of school; that they are challenged to persevere, early and often; and that their year is filled with the promise of discovering a fuller potential, a passion, and many moments that inspire and reward perseverance!

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl
Head of School

Dates to Note:

September 2 -- Office Closed for Training, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Next Week:

September 3 -- School Closed

September 6 -- School Closed; Labor Day

September 7 -- 5th grade and New Student Orientation

September 8 -- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL; Half-day

September 9 -- First day of Gym Drop-n-Go and After School Care

Upcoming Dates:

September 13 -- First day of hot lunch program

September 14 -- K-4 Back to School Night via Zoom starting at 5:00PM

September 15 -- PTO meeting via Zoom at 9 am (link in the next Compass)

September 16 -- 5-8 Back to School Night via Zoom starting at 5:00PM

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

1st Day of School - September 8th

We are looking forward to welcoming your students to their first day of school! In the morning, our 8th graders will be leading the way into the 21-22 school year by greeting students in front of the school. Please remember the 1st day is a half day with dismissal at 12:00. Plan to stick around for a little while at pick up time to greet all the teachers, take some first day pictures, and enjoy a treat to celebrate the start of our new school year!

Drop off and Pick up Reminders

Preschool through 4th grade families: Park your car and walk your student to their exterior classroom door to drop off in the morning. Pick up your student outside their exterior classroom door. Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 4th grade families, remember to walk through the covered playground around to the back of the classrooms.

5th grade through 8th grade families: Drop your student off at the main entrance sliding doors in the morning. At pick up time, drive around the back of the school towards the playground to pick up your student from the exterior classroom door.

Parents, please do not enter the building with your student. Thank you!

Before School and After School Care starts September 9

7:30-7:45 = Gym Drop-n-Go is available for grades K-4. Drive around the back of the school towards the playground to the gym double doors where Ms. Weber will welcome early arrivals. There is no additional cost for this service.

7:30-7:45 = Middle school early drop off. The main entrance sliding doors will be unlocked starting at 7:30 for students in grades 5-8 who arrive before Homeroom is open. Students may find a place in the Commons to sit and read, work on homework, or wait quietly until Homeroom begins at 7:45.

2:45-5:30 = Beginning School After School Program will be held in the preschool room. Students can be picked up at the exterior classroom door.

3:00-5:30 = Lower School Grades K-4 After School Program will be held in the library. Students will exit through the main entrance sliding doors.

3:00-5:30 = Middle School Grades 5-8 After School Program will be held in Mr. Wilson's classroom. Students will exit through the exterior classroom door that leads into the courtyard. Parents can around the back of the school towards the playground to pick up your student.

Sign up [HERE](#) to enroll in the After School Program

Back to School Nights

As we carefully plan for our new school year and work to create opportunities to build community as safely as possible, we have finalized our plans for Back to School Night. More details to follow soon, but please mark your calendars for the dates below as we look forward to 100% attendance.

Tuesday, September 14th = K-4 Back to School Night via Zoom starting at 5:00PM

Thursday, September 16th = 5-8 Back to School Night via Zoom starting at 5:00PM

Board of Trustees Update

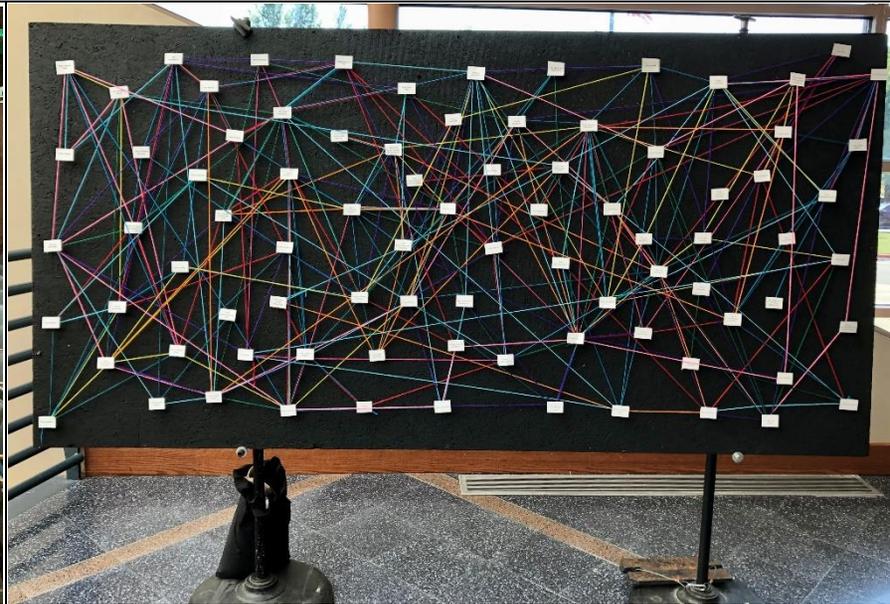
In keeping with our practice of open and transparent communication with the Ashbrook community, here are the highlights from the Board of Trustees regular monthly meeting in August.

During the meeting, the Board welcomed our newest Board members, Kathy May and Jade Chambers! We also talked about the how the Board would participate in staff appreciation activities in the 21-22 academic year. Much like the staff and parents, the Board is reading Vivek Murthy's book, Together. At the August Board meeting, the Board talked about their impressions of the first 4 chapters of the book and possible implications on Ashbrook from what they had read.

The Board then turned its attention to a discussion of the financial stability of the school. Though the discussion centered on the future, the Board quickly focused on the short-term actions that would be required and which Doc Schoberl is pursuing in AY21-22. The Board reviewed and approved a set of 5 outcomes for Doc to focus on. There was also a review of the current status of school enrollment and facilities issues. Finally, we had an update on the Board Policy Working Group.



The Ashbrook staff participated in a Social Emotional Learning exercise during our In Service Week.



Staff members discovered that many of us share the same important identifiers and those connections make us a stronger community.

Have you seen the new Ashbrook video yet?

Click [HERE](#) to watch our newest promotional video on Ashbrook, now on our website and social media!

Important links for "Back to School" preparations

The Hot Lunch sign-up form is [HERE](#). These are due on the first day of school, September 8.

Click [HERE](#) for a full list of staff updates!

For a quick run-down of COVID protocols for the start of school, please read the [What to Expect](#) document.

Picture Day is September 17. Please click [HERE](#) for the flyer. You will need to order your school pictures at mylifetouch.com and enter Picture Day ID: **EVTXVM3S2**.

School supply lists can be downloaded [HERE](#).

A copy of the dress code is [HERE](#).

The form to register your student for the 21-22 After School Program can be downloaded [HERE](#).