

August 14, 2020

Welcome back, Pennoyer Preschool Families!

I hope that each of you have been enjoying your summer! We have been hard at work planning for the return of our students and accommodating for the different needs of our families during this time. Our preschool team is excited to welcome Mrs. Nicole Gray as our preschool teacher for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Gray comes to us with a passion for supporting students, working collaboratively, and authentically engaging families in the learning process. Mrs. Gray and the entire early childhood team are tirelessly preparing for your child's preschool experience that will take place in the learning pathway you have selected. Thank you for your flexibility, support, and grace as we navigate a new and complex school year. Our team continues to respond to the latest guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health, and we are prepared and committed to making decisions that prioritize the health and safety of our students, families, and community.

In early August, Dr. Kopta surveyed all families to determine their learning pathway of choice - either remote learning or in-person learning - to meet the unique needs of each family situation.

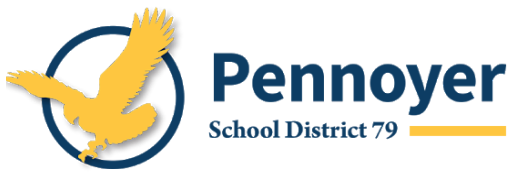
### ***Remote Learning Pathway***

For families opting for remote learning, Pennoyer will be preparing a learning kit filled with materials for you and your child to explore and utilize at home. Each week, your child will return their learning kit and receive a new kit with new materials and activity guide. Mrs. Gray will also be available to schedule time over ZOOM or in person, taking into consideration the comfort level of each family, to connect individually with families and their child. These meetings provide an opportunity for Ms. Gray and families to build positive relationships, share ideas, and collaborate together on learning outcomes for children.

### ***In Person Learning Pathway***

For families selecting in-person learning, your child will be assigned a preschool team. Each preschool team will be made up of 12 students at most, and will meet in person every other week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM. All preschool students are required to wear masks at all times during their school day, except during outside time, scheduled masks breaks, or if eating and drinking. Wednesdays are remote learning days for all students, as Pennoyer School is closed for our custodial team to complete a thorough, deep cleaning and disinfecting process.

In the coming days you will be receiving communication from Mrs. Gray and myself with the name of your child's team, the schedule for their in-person learning, pick-up and drop-off procedures, and general information regarding the preschool program. After speaking with and receiving feedback from our preschool families, our program has opted to place students selecting in person learning into two teams - the Explorer Team and the Discovery Team. These two teams will alternate



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coming into building for 4 days of in person learning each week. We hope this model offers greater consistency, clarity of routines, and predictability for our preschool students.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, August 25, 2020 - Friday, August 24, 2020** | Scheduled individual meetings to meet and connect with our preschool teacher, Mrs. Gray. Both remote learning pathway students AND in person learning pathway students are welcome to sign up. Please sign up for a time to meet with Ms. Gray [here](#).

**Monday, August 31, 2020 - Friday, Thursday September 3, 2020** | **Explorer Team** reports for in person learning! On Friday, the Explorer Team will receive their learning kit for the following week, when they are learning remotely. Students will bring their learning kits to school when they return on the scheduled Monday of their in person learning.

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020 - Friday, September 11, 2020** | **Discovery Team** reports for in person learning! On Friday, the Discovery Team will receive their learning kit for the following week, when they are learning remotely. Students will bring their learning kits to school when they return on the scheduled Monday of their in person learning.

Attached to this email is our preschool calendar that was updated this morning. Please be aware that we may need to adjust the calendar depending on recommendations from the Governor, ISBE, and the IDPH. Again, our preschool team extends our gratitude for the flexibility, grace, and understanding you demonstrate as additional changes and adjustments are made. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of our Pennoyer team if you have any questions or concerns.

In partnership,

Alicia Schmeisser  
Director of Student Services