

Welcome Generals to the 2021/2022 School Year

George C. Marshall Elementary School

Dear Parents,

First, we would like to welcome all of our new George C. Marshall Elementary families. Each year our staff and community look forward to welcoming many new faces to our hallways. We hope that each and every new family feels like a part of our school and that you will all find ways to become an active member of our school community. Joining our PTA is a great way to get involved and learn about Marshall. We'll talk more about that later! Volunteering at Marshall is another wonderful way to get involved. This will look different this year and we'll explain how you can help later as well. We want you to be an active participant in your child's education!!

This year is especially exciting as we are going to be in our NEW Marshall building, full time for the first time!! Last year we were able to welcome students back on a limited basis and this year our doors are open to everyone, everyday! We are so excited to have you all back together with us this year. We will spend time this year learning our way around our new school and practicing our new expectations.

I know that some of our families and students are feeling a little apprehensive about returning to school full time. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to any of our staff to help answer any questions you may have. A few specifics that may help: yes, all staff and students will be required to wear masks while in school, most of our learners are not eligible for a COVID 19 vaccine at this time, so to protect everyone masks will be mandatory at this time. We will continue with our disinfecting and cleaning protocol that were put in place last year. As far as distancing, currently the state recommendation is 3 feet in classrooms, and 6 feet elsewhere – to the greatest extent possible. We will focus on keeping these guidelines in the forefront as we open school this Fall.

We are looking forward to a wonderful new school year here at George C. Marshall – thank you for sharing your children with us!!

Bobbi Geenty, Principal, Erick Hoffarth, Associate Principal and the George C. Marshall Staff

It takes a village to raise a child!!



Back to School Open House

This year our School/PTA Open House will be held on Monday, August 26th, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Classroom placements will be posted at that time and classroom visitations will be held that evening as well. Brenda Andrade, our Family and Community Resource Coordinator will be here to answer any questions our families may have regarding resources available. Our PTA board, will be on hand to sign parents up as members of the PTA, and they will have sign-ups for a variety of committees needed throughout the year to help make our school a great place to be. Our Secretary, Mrs. Renton and our Clerk, Mrs. Boyd, will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding school procedures, logistics or registration. Be sure to stop by and meet our office staff! Please refer to the previous flyer that went home to families regarding the time frame for this year's event - we are staggering family arrival so that we don't overcrowd our classrooms and we are limiting the amount of time that families spend on campus.

COVID Safety Requirements

Staff and students will be required to wear masks daily, whether they are vaccinated or not. Students will remove masks for meals and snacks and while outside at recess. If you would like to

have your student wear their mask at recess, please have that conversation with your child so they are aware of your preference. Students will be kept 3 feet apart to the greatest extent possible. Handwashing, hand sanitizer and cleaning protocol will remain in place as it was last year. Masks will also be required while on the school bus.

First Day of School and Beyond

Tuesday, August 31st, is our first day of school. The cafeteria will be open for breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m. School begins at 8:20 a.m. and dismissal is at 2:50 p.m. Please do NOT drop students off prior to 8:00 a.m. as there is no supervision. Prompt arrival is of utmost importance. Our tardy bell rings at 8:30 a.m., at the bell our announcements begin and school starts. Students who arrive late often feel disconnected from their peers and their day because they've missed the community building that occurs right at the beginning of the day and they miss very important items that are addressed at the onset of the day. Please help your student feel connected by having them arrive at school, on time, every day.

School Arrival

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. students will either go to breakfast in our cafeteria or go through the building and proceed to their grade level hallway. Students will be able to visit with friends in our hallway until the 8:20 bell rings. Students will not be able to enter classrooms until 8:20. Parents will not be able to escort their child to their classroom.



First Week of School and Transportation

Please start your student's year off by having them ride the school bus the very first day. Locate your child's bus stop and practice walking back and forth from the stop to home. Be sure your child can recognize the stop from a car on the road. Have your address in a small pocket of the backpack so your child can show the bus driver if they are unsure.

Kindergarten Parents - Please remember an identified adult **must** be at the bus stop to meet your child. If the designated person is not at the bus stop to meet your student, the driver will return the student to school, it will then be the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick up the student from school. Remember this is for the safety of all of our youngest bus riders. If you want your Kindergarten student to depart the bus with an older sibling the paperwork for this can be obtained in the school office. Also note that all of our Kindergarten bus riding students will have a tag attached to their backpacks to help the drivers identify them as needing to be met by an identified adult. Tags will be attached to backpacks on the first day of school. Please do not remove this tag.

Absence Line

When your child is absent from school, please call our attendance line at 313-1426, prior to 9:00 a.m. Please leave a message including the date of the absence, student's name, teacher's name and reason for the absence. If your message is not received before 9:00 a.m. the school district's automated calling system will call your home to report your child absent for the day. The call will go to the main number listed on your student's registration. Please note that all absences must be excused either by phone or by written communication.

Visitors and Volunteering at Marshall

At this time we will **NOT** be able to have visitors or volunteers at Marshall. But when we are able to, the following requirements will be in place.



All volunteers are required to complete a background check by WSP (Washington State Patrol), prior to working at school with children. Even if you have been cleared in the past you will need to log onto our school district website and complete the Volunteer clearance application online. This will need to be done even if you have current volunteer clearance. Click on the School tab, then on the bottom right you will see the Volunteer tab, click there to access the online application. We love to have parents volunteer in our classrooms. The approval process takes

approximately two weeks. All visitors to school must be clearly identified with a visitor badge during school hours. Please do not forget to stop in the office and sign in via our new computerized sign in system. If you do not have identification (even though we may know you and see you frequently), you will be politely asked to return to the office to check in and obtain proper identification. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy which is designed to ensure the safety of all students.



Medication At School

The Vancouver Public Schools recognizes that in some cases a child must take prescription and non-prescription medication at school. When it is necessary because of a health condition for your son or daughter to be given prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours, authorization must be given by the child's parent or guardian accompanied by written instructions and the signature of the prescribing health professional. The authorization must include inclusive dates for each prescription and/or any changes in the dosage or administration instructions as they occur.

Only medication containers properly labeled by a physician, dentist or pharmacist and brought to school by the parent may be accepted for administration by the school. Forms are available in the school office and must be renewed each year.

Medication will not be administered without the required signatures on the form (no exceptions).

Please note that this includes, but is not limited to: cough drops, aspirin, eye drops, etc. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

If you have any questions regarding medical matters at school, please contact our school Nurse, Mindy Ding, at 360.313.2400 or mindy.ding@vansd.org.

Timely Arrival to School

Students should arrive at school no later than 8:20, our school day begins promptly at 8:30 at Marshall, students may enter classrooms beginning at 8:20. Instruction begins in our classrooms immediately after the tardy bell rings. When students arrive after the 8:30 tardy bell they miss important beginning of day instruction. Students who enter late often feel anxious and are embarrassed to enter. It is also disruptive to the classroom when students enter late. Please ensure that your students start their day off on the right foot by arriving on time. At Marshall we run a variety of attendance incentive programs, to help us maintain a high level of attendance for all students.



Breakfast and Lunch Are Free for All Students During the 2021-22 School Year

Through a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), school meals will be available to all VPS students at no cost. While each student will continue to have a food service account, students will not be required to enter their PIN (personal identification number) to access school meals. No cash, checks or online payments will be accepted by Nutrition Services Staff this school year since all meals are served at no cost to families.



Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to submit a Meal Application even though all school meals are available at no cost. Families qualifying for free or reduced-price meals may be eligible for waived or reduced fees to participate in other school or community programs. The district also receives additional funding to meet our students' needs, based on the number of eligible students confirmed by these applications. Meal Applications can be downloaded from the district website or are available in each school office. Additionally, families may complete a Meal Application online. Parents only need to complete one Meal Application for all students in their household.

For further information, please contact VPS Nutrition Services @ 360-313-1190 or email Nutrition.Services@vansd.org.

Phone and Address Updates

If you have moved over the summer, or changed your address, phone number or email address, please be sure to stop by the office or call and update that information with us so that we are better able to stay in touch with you. It is very important to have up to date information for all of our families. If your student becomes ill or is injured at school we need to be able to reach someone right away, so please be sure to update us with any changes throughout the year.



School and Classroom News; Social Media

You can view our newsletter on our school website: <https://marshall.vansd.org> . Our newsletter is also emailed out to your email address, please be sure to keep these up to date so you receive all important school information. Also, be sure to check our Facebook page, updates are posted here often, our PTA has a Facebook page that they keep updated regularly as well.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming school year, please feel free to contact our office Secretary – Mrs. Renton and our Registrar Mrs. Boyd, they are on hand daily from 7:30 – 4:00 to answer phone calls and questions. Our office is also open during that time if you have paperwork to fill out or turn in. We look forward to another great year at Marshall!!

