



# THE COUGAR E-BLAST

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL ENGLE

Greetings Country Trails Families,

The 2020-2021 school year was successfully opened last week and we want to thank all of the community's support in making that possible. A special thank you to all of the hard work and adjustments our teachers have also made creating a safe learning environment. Having our students back both in person and seeing smiling faces on screen for remote learners makes all the hours spent well worth it. It may not be "normal" but it feels so good to be back in school!

In years past we have had an open house/back to school night for all families. This year teachers have updated their Canvas pages to include a welcome video and syllabus style documents that cover grade level and classroom expectations. These are available for you to view at your convenience.

Finally I would like to say thank you for all the suggestions and support you have graciously reached out and given us. This year is new and challenging for us all with many new rules and procedures. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us as we problem solve together ways to have a positive impact on our students.

# It's a Great Day to be a Country Trails Cougar!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 14th  
Picture Day for **In Person** Students
- September 16th  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Remote Learning Planning Day
- September 21st  
Picture Day for **Remote Only** Students  
Board of Education Mtg @ 6:00pm
- September 30th  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Remote Learning Planning Day
- October 5th-9th  
Fire Safety Week
- October 12th  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Columbus Day

**SEPTEMBER CHARACTER TRAIT**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Parents please take this month to practice the above trait with your child as your child's teacher will be doing in the classroom and around the school.

## HELPFUL LINKS

[CT Webpage](#)

[District Calendar 2020-2021](#)

[EC Calendar 2020-2021](#)

[Staff Directory](#)

[Skyward Parent Access](#)

[Elementary Handbook](#)

## SIGN UP FOR SCHOOL MESSENGER

We listened to and heard you regarding frustration relevant to different apps being used to send information out to you, the parents/guardians, last year. Parents/guardians should continue to receive phone messages and emails as they have in the past; however, we have improved our communication tools to allow even more communication between home and school through the use of the SchoolMessenger app. We are hopeful this will simplify the way the district, schools, and teachers communicate with parents, and students.

Teachers are able to push out messages, files, photos, and videos to their parents/guardians and students using the mobile app or website. Parents/guardians and students may use the app to see messages sent out by teachers, coaches, schools, and the district. If you would like to receive messages in this way, please use the following [school messenger link](#) to sign up for the app!

## DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES FOR SUPPLIES/CHROMEBOOKS ETC.

In order to limit the number of people in the main office area, items that parents need to drop off for their child can be placed on the cart in the vestibule in door number one. If there is paperwork to drop off, please place it in the blue bin on the cart inside door number one. It is helpful for parents to call, or email us to let us know to look for items in these areas. Additionally, items that parents need to pick up from school will also be placed on the cart in the vestibule. Please make sure to label anything with your child's name and teacher to ensure all items are directly given to your child.

## DAILY PRECERTIFICATION FORMS

Thank you to all families for doing a great job remembering to take and write down your child's temperature on the daily precertification forms. Please also remember to check both symptom boxes. If your child has symptoms other than what is listed, please indicate the symptoms they are experiencing. If your child has no symptoms, please check no symptoms both at the top and bottom of the symptom lists. There are two locations for indicating no symptoms.

## MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Parents are reminded to bring their children's medications, both prescription and over the counter, with a completed "Meds A" form to school as soon as possible. "Med's A" forms are available online at <http://central301.net/health-services/health-requirements/> or you can pick one up in the school office.

**For the safety of all children, children are not allowed to transport medications to school.**

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

In order to provide efficient and effective communication, we will be emailing out an e-Blast twice a month. A shorter one on or about the 15th of the month and the bigger newsletter on the last day of the month. The e-Blasts will also be posted on our website so you will be able to access them at your convenience.

Please visit the Country Trails [webpage](#). It is a wonderful source of information. There are links to the Skyward Parent Portal, Bus Information, and the PTO page, just to name a few. Or, follow us on Twitter [@301CTGS](#).

## STUDENT ABSENCES

Each day your child is going to be absent, please call the Country Trails office at 847-717-8000 **before 9:30am**. If you prefer, you may email the school secretaries, Theresa Hughes and Teri Schramer, as well as the classroom teacher to report an absence.

theresa.hughes@central301.net - Theresa Hughes  
teri.schramer@central301.net - Teri Schramer

When reporting an absence, please indicate the length of the absence, as well as the reason why your child will not be at school, such as, family vacation, going out of town, doctor appointment, or illness. If the absence is due to illness, please report the symptoms your child is experiencing, including, but not limited to, any flu-like symptoms, (fever, headache, and sore throat.)

We appreciate your cooperation!

## TARDY STUDENTS

School starts at 8:30am for EC AM, 9:00am for A-K K-5th graders, 12:30pm for EC PM and 1:00pm for L-Z K-5th graders.

Students should be in their classrooms ready to learn at their start time. Parents are required to come into the vestibule to scan the QR code posted on the door and complete the form to **log your child in if he/she is late**. Please do not just drop your child off late. The state requires this and they do check these lists; it causes problems for us if the parent/guardian hasn't signed in the tardy student.

## CHANGES IN AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL ROUTINE

The office and your child's teacher need a **written note or email** if your child is:

- a bus rider and they are not riding the bus home
- going to be picked up by someone else -please indicate who will be picking them up and the time of pick up
- going to be taken out of school earlier than the scheduled dismissal time - please indicate the time of pick up

Please send a note or email to the office and your child's teacher if your child is going to have a change in their usual form of transportation home. If you don't receive a reply back to your email, please call the office to verify the email was received. Be sure to include the child's **first and last name, and the teacher's name** in the note. If your child attends the BASE after school program or daycare and there is a change in plans, please notify the BASE/daycare.

The office **cannot** accommodate phone calls to change a student's transportation routine after **2:30pm**. Teachers may not have time to check their email before dismissal, so we ask that all changes be made through the office to ensure the students' safe delivery home.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Whether your child is learning remotely, or in-person at Country Trails, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.