

Journeys School A Communication Guide for Elementary School Parents

Effective communication between home and school is crucial for student success. The elementary teachers work hard to keep families “in the know” about what is going on at school. Here are some of the ways you can expect to hear from us this year:

Advisors: Each child in the elementary level has been matched with an advisor. Your child’s advisor will serve as the key contact between you and the school. The advisor will focus on an advisee’s social/emotional growth and also act as an advocate for your child in the school environment. Any social-emotional concerns or questions should be brought to the attention of your child’s advisor, and he/she will get the appropriate faculty members involved in the conversation. Academic questions or concerns should be directed to your child’s classroom teachers. Both e-mail and phone are good ways to contact us. We will return emails or phone calls within 24 hours. Your child’s advisor and contact information can be found below.

- Ashley** (ashley.mudge@journeysschool.org, ext. 1173): Alex, Avery, Caroline, Clark, Daniel, Forrest, Jack, Leila, Luc, Nick, Style
- Bari** (bari.bucholz@journeysschool.org, ext. 1119): Cannon D., Erica, Helena, Luke, Mary, Michael, Natasha, Nikita, Parker, Sophie
- Chris** (chris.bessonette@journeysschool.org, ext. 1130): Adam, Alden, Alix, Henry H., Holland, Ronin, Sam, Sebastian, Sydney C., Tove, Willis
- Jill** (jill.wright@journeysschool.org, ext. 1101): Bettina, Duncan, Dylan, Henry M., Logan, Sydney K., Trevor, Will D., Wilson
- Kalen** (kalen.kleyman@journeysschool.org, ext. 1109): Anna, Ava, Brooke, Cotter, Flynn, Kestrel, Maya, Oliver, Owen, Ridge
- Kjera** (kjera.henrie@journeysschool.org, ext. 1122): Alexei, Chase, Sean, Whitney
- Shannon** (shannon.shuptrine@journeysschool.org, ext. 1120): Audrey, Cannon M., Carly, Jacqueline, Kai, Maggie, Matthew, Max, Sophia, Tanner
- Sydney** (sydney.daniels@journeysschool.org, ext. 1103): Henry D., Isaac, Kiva, Lyla, Raines, Reagan, Reed, Robert, Warren
- Travis** (travis.gay@journeysschool.org, ext. 1158): Elsie, Mason, Nikki, Zander

Progress Meetings: Elementary School teachers will host new Progress Meetings for parents twice a year. These meetings are in addition to Learning Team Meetings. At Progress Meetings, parents will have the opportunity to sign up for short meetings with each of your child’s academic teachers. Fall Learning Team Meetings will take place from October 18-29. Our first Progress Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8.

Folders: The canvas folder system plays an important role in communication at the elementary school level. The teachers check each child’s folder every morning, and we ask that parents do the same each evening. Students are expected to remove all homework or important notes at the start of the day and place them in teachers boxes. Important letters and assessments will frequently be sent home in your child’s folder. Feel free to send notes to the teachers in your child’s folder.

Assessments: Routine assessment occurs in many ways at Journeys School. In addition to regular assessment completed internally within all classes, students will complete formal assessments of progress four times a year in math and language arts to measure growth. Piloted last spring, the DORA and DOMA assessments provide data to help inform instruction for each student. These online assessments will begin for kindergarten students when it is developmentally appropriate. Student work and in-class assessments will be sent home regularly throughout units of study in each subject area.

Early dismissal/late arrival policy: School starts promptly at 8:15am and ends at 3:30pm. If your child arrives to the classroom later than 8:15, he/she needs to be checked in with Sam Kitchen in the office by a parent. Please be sure to allow adequate time for your child to walk up the path in the morning. If your child needs to be picked up early (before 3:15), a parent must sign the child out with Sam Kitchen in the office. If you are not able to pick up your child by 3:45pm, teachers will walk students back to the classroom to join the afterschool program. There is a fee for this program.

Basecamp News: Basecamp News is the Journeys School newsletter. This year, Basecamp News will be sent every other week alternating with Teton Science Schools’ Journal. Basecamp News will include interesting and engaging stories about curriculum, classroom activities, and student learning that occurred in elementary and other levels of the school over the previous two weeks. In addition, each week a set of announcements and important dates, including elementary school events, will go home using the same format. Basecamp News is sent electronically, but families without access to a computer may request a hard copy from Sam Kitchen at extension 1221.

Elementary School Year-long Theme: Mountain Communities

		Fall Trimester	Winter Trimester	Spring Trimester
Theme Focus	K-2	People Communities	Animal Communities	Plant Communities
	3-5	Our Mountain Community	Celebrating the Arts in Mountain Communities	Regional and Global Mountain Communities
Extended Journeys	K-2	Jackson, Wyoming October 6	Jackson, Wyoming January 27-28 (overnight for 2 nd Grade Capstone only)	Location-TBD June 2-3
	3-5	Kelly, Wyoming October 4-6	Jackson, Wyoming January 27-28	Sun Valley, ID (3 rd & 4 th Grade) May 24-26 Salish Sea Expeditions Seattle, WA (5 th Grade Capstone) Date-TBD

Important Dates to Remember:

October 18-29: Fall Learning Team Meetings

December 8: Progress Meetings

December 15: Journeys School Winter Celebration

February 17: Elementary School Art Fair

March 1-18: Spring Learning Team Meetings

March 21-25: ERB CTP4 Standardized Testing, 3rd-5th grades only

May 18: Pre-K-5th grade Art Show