

# Grass Valley Charter School

*at Bell Hill*

An Expeditionary Learning School

342 South School Street Grass Valley, Ca 95945  
(530) 273-8723  
Fax (530) 274-9872



Brian Martinez, Principal

August 3, 2010

Dear Student,

I can't believe that school is starting again! I hope you had a wonderful, exciting summer. I enjoyed my travels and my stay-home time! I am excited for the start of my fourteenth year at *GVCS*! I look forward to our year together in our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Room One Crew! We will have fun right away seeing old friends and making new friends, as well. Let me share some important information. (You probably know most of it already!)

Our class will be one of three 1/2 classes, with both first and second graders. Our three crews will start with an expedition on dogs. Later, our expedition will turn to coyotes and other canines. We will look at their habitats and how they live.

**For the first day of school, I am giving you two assignments:**

**First, bring a picture of a dog. It can be one of your dogs, or a dog you know.**

**Second, bring a "secret" item in a brown bag.** This item should tell us something about you. It could be a book, a souvenir, a sports item, etc. (One year I brought a rock from my collection. Another year I brought a scrapbook page.) We will take turns guessing what is in each person's bag.

**Items needed every day for school:**

- a backpack
- lunch or lunch money (school lunch is \$2.75, milk is \$.35)
- a healthy snack (I will not be keeping a snack stockpile in my cupboard.)

**School supplies to leave at school:**

- 12-pack of colored pencils
- 2 pencil pouches
- a 1" binder (no bigger)
- 3 highlighters-green, yellow, and pink

***2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will need coins for math throughout the year. Bring these coins in a Ziploc with your name on it: 8 quarters, 15 dimes, 20 nickels, 25 pennies***

Students and parents may visit our classroom the day before school, **Tuesday, August 16, 2:00-3:00 pm**, to meet me or just say hello. We will be busy getting our room and materials ready, so plan to visit briefly.

**School hours are 8:30 to 3:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday. Friday dismissal time is**

**12:30** for the entire school. When school starts again it's a long day for all of us! Think about how **you** can start getting ready for the change...**my** bedtime will be earlier! Our school traffic can be extra heavy the first week, so allow plenty of time. Supervised drop-off is at the front of school (School Street) after 8:15. There is no playground supervision before school, except for the GVCS Before-School Program. (See enclosed flyer)

Pickup is at the same area at 3:00. Please respect our neighbors by dropping students only in designated areas. (Temby Street is NOT a drop-off zone.) Our procedure eliminates the need for most parents to park. If you need to walk your student in or out of class, you may use available street parking, **not** drop-off zones. Please do not park in front of resident driveways. (Note: **The red drop-off zones are monitored by GVPD during school. Unattended cars in those zones may receive a parking ticket. OUCH!**)

A few words about the school dress code: Even on hot days, spaghetti strap tops, halters, and midriff tops are not appropriate. Many children are accustomed to wearing flip-flop shoes, but they do not support safe and active play. Athletic shoes or sport-type sandals (with a strap around the heel) are good choices. It is great to see students ready to be active and comfortable during all school activities!

Attendance and Tardies: Students feel most secure and confident when they regularly arrive on time and get to experience the full day, including social interaction before school. The school years can help your child develop a lifetime habit of promptness. Punctuality reflects the respect and courtesy we all want to integrate in our lives. That said, we all have times when we are unavoidably tardy or absent. **Students arriving late need to check in FIRST at the office to get a tardy pass for class.** Our tardy procedure reduces audit discrepancies. When your child is ill, **please notify the office** as soon as possible. Please try to arrange medical or other appointments outside of school hours.

Again, welcome back to school! If you are new and need more information, please contact the office or leave me a message. I hope to see some of you on Tuesday, August 16, between 2:00-3:00 pm!

Warmly,

Audrey Hight