



# Greenfield Elementary School

Mary Longnion, Principal

Home of the Gators

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Dear Greenfield Family,

I am writing to you today about a topic that weighs heavily on the minds of myself and our staff. Since the start of 2018 there have been five school shootings in the United States, with the most recent one happening just yesterday. In light of these tragic events that are very close to our hearts as educators and protectors of children, we have come together as a campus team to re-evaluate our safety plans and procedures. While it is unlikely that such an event will ever happen on our campus or even in Gilbert, the safety of our students and staff is of paramount concern. Though it has been a tradition for many years at Greenfield Elementary School to allow an open-campus playground in the mornings and afternoons, we have decided to close our campus, allowing "Gators only" on our playground before and after school. ***This change will become effective Monday, March 5th to allow time for parents to start transitioning their students to gate drop off, and to give us a week of implementation before spring break to work out any unforeseen issues with the plan.***

While we know that this has been a wonderful time and place for community building and seeing our students off in the morning, we have also seen such an increase in the number of students on campus that we want to be sure that we can easily monitor our surroundings. We will be making the following changes to our morning and afternoon procedures:

1. Greenfield staff will be posted at each gate from 8:15-8:33 and at dismissal, as well as out on the playground. Our community service club, Gators Give Back, will be posting "Gator Goodbye Gate" signs at each point of entry, where your students are able to kiss, high five or give you knuckles as you say, "See ya later, Gator" and send them on their way. Only Greenfield students will be permitted to enter through our outside gates.
2. We realize that there may be a few younger students who are nervous at first about not having parents by their sides until the bell rings. If you believe that this is the case with your child, please make direct contact with your child's teacher so that a transition plan can be created over the next few weeks.
3. Ramada pickup in the afternoon will be very similar, except that we will line the students up in the shade on the north side of the building right by the big main gates. Parents who use Ramada Pickup will just meet their student right at the gate at the end of the day. Similar to Parent Pickup (driving loop) any students left after pickup time (approximately 10 minutes) will be walked to the office.

We understand that there will be some students that may initially be a little worried about this transition, as well as some parents missing that tender time right before school where they can share in the school day. What we know from research and experience is that our children often mirror the confidence and calm that they see in the adults that surround them. At school, we will use a simple age-appropriate explanation, something like-- "we have lots of great kids at Greenfield, and we want to keep them safe." It would be most helpful if your conversation was similar at home.

I know that this is a departure from some of our morning rituals, and that this may temporarily disrupt the routines of some of our students, however for the peace of mind of all, it is imperative that we make this change at this time. Thank you all for your continued support as we work together for the benefit of all of our children.

Sincerely,

Mary Longnion

Gilbert Public Schools

WE TEACH AND WE LEARN