



**ORCHARD
AVENUE**
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1800 Orchard Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: 970-254-7560
www.orchardave.mesa.k12.co.us



Si usted necesita una traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5484.
Estamos para servirles.

Orchard Avenue Elementary Mission Statement: We are curious, confident, capable learners empowered to be compassionate world citizens.



May 2021 Calendar

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 3 - 7

(and every day works, too!)

Thursday, May 6	4:00 p.m.	PTA Meeting in the Garden
Friday, May 7	5:30 – 7:30p.m.	PTA Spring Picnic
Sunday, May 9		Happy Mother's Day
Friday, May 14	As scheduled	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, May 18		Field Day (during PE)
Friday, May 21	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Kindergarten's Last Day Events
		5 th Grade Graduation
		End of the Year Slideshow (Virtual)
	2:00 p.m.	School is out for summer!
Monday, May 24		Teacher Work Day / Last day on duty
Monday, May 31		Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
Friday, June 4		Office Closes for the summer

First Day of School for 1st – 5th Grade – Monday, August 9
First Day of School for Kindergarten – Wednesday, August 11



2021 - 2022 School Calendar

The 2021-2022 school calendar is on the SD51 Website. Feel free to access it and print off a copy for your planning in the next school year. The first day of school is slated for Monday, August 9, 2021 for 1st – 5th Grade, August 11, 2021 for Kindergartners.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Don't forget to honor and appreciate your child's teacher for their dedication to students each and every day. Teacher Appreciation week is May 3rd – 7th this year, but appreciation is accepted any time!



PTA Spring Picnic!

Join Orchard Avenue families for the Spring Picnic on Friday, May 7th – live and in person!! The event starts at 5:30 p.m. and will wrap up at 7:30 p.m. Lots of free activities are planned. Families can bring a picnic dinner or buy dinner from the Smokin' CEO Food Truck. Masks and social distancing are still required at school functions, including PTA events.

The Last Day of School Activities

Exciting activities are planned for our last day of school on May 21st. Classroom teachers will communicate with families the specific plans for their classes. The school wide End of the Year Slide Show will be shown virtually in classrooms. Students will be released for the day and school year at 2:00 p.m.

Spring is a time for “Spring Cleaning” and it is no different at Orchard Avenue Elementary. Here are some things that we need your help with as we prepare for the end of the school year:

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found has lots of clothing and lunch box items that we would love to return. Jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and lunch boxes were discarded and abandoned on the playground. Please take a moment to check the lost and found bin before and reclaim missing items before school is over. For your convenience we will place the bin in the foyer. There is also a nice assortment of smaller items (such as glasses, jewelry, keys, and cell phones) that will need to be claimed in the office. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity or destroyed after the last day of school.



Student Medications

If your child takes a prescribed medication or over the counter medications that you have supplied to the school, please stop by the health office to pick it up by 3:00 p.m., Friday, May 21st. This is a firm date. Any medications left after the last day of school are destroyed.

Medications will not be sent home with the child – they must be picked up by an adult.

Student Address Changes

The final report card of the year will be mailed to your home. ***If you have moved over the course of the school year, please contact the office to make sure we have your current address on record.*** Also, if you know your child(ren) will not be returning to Orchard Avenue, kindly let the school office know so we can factor that information in our planning for classrooms next school year.

Important Dates for 2021-2022 School Year

Here are some important dates to keep in mind for the new school year:

7/20/21: Online Registration Window opens Kindergarten - 5th Grade *

* Registrations and/or enrollment verifications must be completed to be placed on a class list.

7/23/21: Transfer Requests available

Week of August 2nd: Class Lists available for registered & verified students

8/9/21: First Day of School: 1st - 5th Grades

8/11/21: First Day of School: Kindergarten



Extended Hours Summer Day Camp

Extended Hours is offering their summer program for children ages 5 – 11 years old at two locations this summer – Broadway & Pomona Elementary schools. Many fun activities are planned for the summer ahead. If you are interested in Extended Hours care over the summer break and have questions they can be contacted at 970-241-3603 or email office@extendedhoursprogram.com. Limited space is available so early registrations are strongly encouraged. Register online at www.ExtendedHoursProgram.com



Salute to Staff...

SD51 recently recognized staff who are retiring and who have contributed years of service to staff and students. Orchard Avenue congratulates the following staff for their dedicated service:

5 Years: Nancy Kowalesky, Will Layng, Kathi Rose, Kevin Watt

10 Years: Maegan Ralston

15 Years: Jerri Shaw, Elaine Buda

20 Years: Megan Bennett, Jenny Krill,

25 Years: Eric Charlton

Thank you for all of the care you have poured into the lives of students over the years.



Parting Words...

“So Long & Good Luck” to our 5th grade students. We hope that you will always have fond memories of Orchard Avenue Elementary and that you will have fun exploring your future in middle school and beyond! Good Luck to you all!!



We also “Farewell” to retiring teachers Jerri Shaw (SpEd), and Jenny Krill (ELL). Also to Lucas Ray (4th Grade) who will be moving out of state after he is married this summer and to Reese Lewon (4th Grade) who will be teaching 8th grade math at Grand Mesa Middle School.

We are deeply grateful for their service to our students and school and wish them well in their future endeavors.

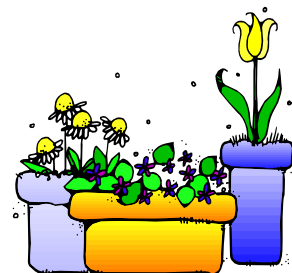
A Message from Principal Richards...

Dear Orchard Avenue Families,

It’s hard to believe that the end of the school year is only a few weeks away! We have some exciting things happening this month as we prepare to finish the year strong.

- PTA is hosting a Spring Picnic on May 7 from 5:30 – 7:30. There will be games and activities as well as a food truck.
- We will have “in person” student-led conferences on Friday, May 14 (classroom teachers will be in touch to schedule a time). Your student will be leading their conference, showcasing and discussing his/her goals and progress this year. For students, this is an exciting time to share their growth and reflections with their families. Masks will be required for these conferences. If you would prefer to meet virtually please contact your child’s teacher.
- Field Day will take place on May 18th. This is a fun time for learners to participate in games and activities with their classmates.

As we near the end of the school year we would like to ask for your support with creating a safe school environment by following the following protocols.



- Due to COVID-19 protocols our playground is closed in the morning and after school. Students can come to campus at 8:30 for breakfast. Students who are not having breakfast are welcome to arrive at 8:50.

- **19th Street Alley:** If you would like to drop-off/pick-up your child without exiting your vehicle please use the 19th Street alley.
- **West Parking Lot:** The west parking lot is intended for families to park their car and walk to the child's classroom door. Please do not ask your child to cross this parking lot to meet you in your car. Parents may not pick up along the sidewalk areas.
- As communicated by Dr. Sirko, we will continue with our current mask policies until the end of this school year.

It has been an honor to work with you and your children this year. I would like to thank you for the extraordinary ways you have supported your children and the school during this unusual year. I would also like to recognize our amazing staff for maintaining high expectations and a safe and caring environment despite the many challenges we encountered throughout the year. I cannot think of a better community of which to be a part.

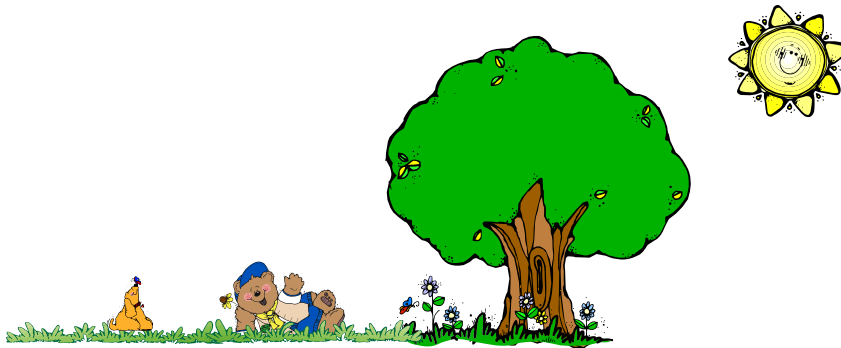
Have a restful and fun summer. We can't wait to see you back here in August!

Sincerely,
Teal Richards



Office Hours for the Summer

The office will be closed on Monday, May 31st for the Memorial Day Holiday, then change to summer hours beginning Tuesday, June 1st. The office will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office will close for the summer on Friday, June 4th and reopen for the 2021/22 school year on Wednesday, July 21st.



From all of us at Orchard Avenue Elementary School...
Have a safe and fun summer!