



Weekly Update August 26, 2021

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Welcome back!

You don't miss your water 'til your well runs dry, huh? To have kids in the building, and so *many* kids, is really such a pleasure and feels like a treat after last year's mostly online school/YouTube time. Thanks for being a part of our school; we are so glad to have you here!

We are *still* all in this together

Aldo Leopold Charter School is a state public school. And as such we must follow the guidelines, rules and mandates that come from the New Mexico Public Education Department. So of course the [New Mexico Public Education's Covid-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools](#) is a frequently visited document for all of us. Two weeks ago, before the Delta variant had become so virulent, students and staff could wear gaiters as masks, but starting this week that is no longer allowed. *Everyone* must wear a two layer cloth or disposable mask. Here is a page from the [New Mexico Public Education Department's Toolkit](#) laying out those guidelines. Another piece of information that we think can be very helpful when deciding if your kid with a sore throat should come to school or not is the [School Student and Staff Decision Tree](#). A big part of that is getting Covid tested when there are signs of illness. We are so grateful to be open for business with all students here at school. We hope to keep it that way, so please, let's all do our part to stay safe.

Here you are and there you go

Drop off and pick up is going very smoothly; thank you parents and others who drop off and pick up kids! Remember High School pick up is at 3:30 and Middle School pick up is at 3:35.

Lunch

The Guadalupe Montessori School is once again making us beautiful, nutritious, and yummy lunches. **Lunch is free for all students** for the rest of the school year. Let me say that again: **Lunch is free for all students** for the rest of the school year! Thank you to all those who turned in their free and reduced lunch form. If you haven't turned in this form *please do* and here's why: This form is used to collect data related to federal funding, grants, fee waivers for SAT, ACT, AP, Title 1 money. So all students benefit when everyone turns in their form. If that wasn't enough reason...EBT cards will be distributed \$375/kid/ month of August and depending on federal funding hereafter.

Are you here?

Attendance happens within the first 10 minutes of class start time (see schedules).

High School	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-10:35	A	B	A	B	9th Grade LA/Math
10:40-11:00	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	9th Grade/New Students: Community Orientation
11:05 – 12:00	C	D	C	C	
12:00 – 12:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:40 – 1:35	C	D	C	D	
1:40-3:30	E	F	E	F	10th-12th: YCC or Internships
3:45-4:40	G	G	G	G	

Middle School	Monday - Thursday	Friday
8:45-10:45	1st Core Block	Friday Adventures!
10:45-11:45	1st Elective	↓
11:45-12:15	Lunch	↓
12:15-1:15	2nd Elective	↓
1:15-3:15	2nd Core Block	↓
3:15-3:35	Advisory	↓
		↓

It's not to punish, but to focus on what is happening now

I love my phone! I can do so much with it: keep in touch with people I love, listen to podcasts, check my bank balance, *take pictures*, check my email (so old fashioned), AND call people. I bet many of you do even more with your phones. And kids do even more--with all that social media bippity boppity boo. But so much is now coming out about the negative effects of phone use (check out [this article from the NY Times](#)), that we as a community of learners focused on the health and well being of kids, cannot ignore. Soooo....we have implemented a New Cell/Electronic Device policy: Students, middle and high, will turn off their phones and put it in their backpacks *before* class. IF you need to get a hold of your child during the school day, call the office and Andrea or Cathie will get a message to your child. If your child needs to get a hold of you during the day, they will be sent to the office (so if the school number comes up, be sure to answer).

Going with the flow

The **Gila Forest** was designated as the world's first wilderness area on June 3, 1924. This vast protected wild place is what inspired our founders to create our school. So every year to honor and experience this wonder of a place, the high school teachers and experienced backpackers from our local community take all the high school students away from civilization and into the wild for four days and three nights. *The high school has moved the backpacking trips back a couple weeks.* The **9th and 12th graders** will now be going out on **Tuesday, September 7** and will return **Friday, September 10**. The **10th and 11th graders** will leave school on **Monday, September 20** and will be back on **Thursday, September 23**. It is very important, critical actually, that students be here the *Friday before their trip* with their backpack packed, so that their backpack leader can check their gear. And on that note...a few reminders and details to help your kid be ready ready ready for the trip (can you name the children's book character who to emphasize her point, would say the word three times? Hint: She lived in New York City *Answer at the end of the Update*).

- **Student & Parent checklists, which must be returned to us on Friday, September 3, or the Tuesday before departure (on September 7 or Monday September 20). This checklist will also be posted on ParentSquare**
- **Bring Your Own Lunch for the first afternoon of your backpacking trip (Tuesday, September 7 for 9th & 12th graders; Monday, September 20 for 10th & 11th graders)**
- **Packing List for Wilderness Backpacking-Your child received a list of what to bring and what not to bring-ask them for it.**
- **Covid-era tenting & tarping policy: Students may sleep under a coed group tarp OR bring their own sturdy shelter (tent, tarp, or hammock), such things and other backpack gear are available for check out from the school's camping supplies**
- **Dietary needs: BE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK LEADER IS AWARE OF ANY FOOD RESTRICTIONS YOUR KID HAS.**
- **Medical needs: BE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK LEADER IS AWARE OF ANY MEDICAL NEEDS THAT YOUR KID HAS.**
- **Cotton kills: in the back country it is best to have clothing that is quick drying and easy to layer. We have excellent well stocked thrift stores in our community and they frequently have hiking gear for cheap cheap cheap.**

Survey says! (But only if you respond)

Let's hope we never (NEVER!) have to go back to online learning, but just in case, help these state folks out so that they can make their systems better (hopefully, hopefully, hopefully there won't need to be a next time) "SETDA (The State Educational Technology Directors Association) is conducting a survey to gather feedback from kids, parents, and teachers to learn more about what worked and what didn't work during the pandemic. We want to hear the good, the not-so-good, and your feedback on remote learning. Please share the survey with colleagues, parents, teachers, and students.

<https://setda.info/PandemicSurvey>"

9th Annual Middle School Mini-Villages



The first two weeks of middle school are team building time mostly devoted to our yearly mini village project. Students were divided into groups of 6-7 and were tasked with creating a society and culture of villagers in an outdoor location that we trek to every day. They made alliances and war with other villages. They traded resources, they built houses, hospitals, prisons, science centers and libraries (only one group did that this year). There was mayhem, creativity, goofing-off and struggles for power and dominance within each group.



Then each group spent a day creating presentations that explained their village. This time is another opportunity to learn how to work in a group. It was frustrating at times for some as they learned to express their ideas, listen to other group members' ideas, and sometimes painfully compromise. It was also exciting as students realized that they understood and agreed with what someone else wanted to create.





development as they find what makes them comfortable and how they respond to being out of their comfort zone. Additionally, so many of them noted in the debrief or in their journals that they

.....and the next day we watched *all 12!!* performances/presentations. This year Mini Village Presentations were in the shade of the trees at Gough Park. Thanks to parents and family members who came to watch as kids, sometimes painfully self-consciously played their part or read their lines. This sort of thing is just so important to their



learned what they must do in the future to be more prepared, what it was like to work with their group and how they can personally improve upon that, and where they succeeded in showing up and helping out.





*Answer to the question in the Backpacking bit: Eloise