



WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating and inspiring students to achieve their personal best

Dr. James R. Scanlon, Superintendent of Schools

July 20, 2021

Dear Greystone Elementary Families and Staff,

We are just six weeks from the start of school in what feels like the fastest summer ever. We're very excited to welcome students to Greystone Elementary on August 30.

I'm writing to clarify some issues and questions about the construction of Greystone's playground. You've probably seen emails and videos from your new principal, Dr. Kevin Fagan, about the design and development of the playground and a campaign to raise funds for additional playground equipment.

First, I want to assure you that the West Chester Area School District's plans for Greystone have **always** included the funding of a full, robust playground, including fencing. We would not create plans for a school without that. The playground we included in our plans is very similar to the ones at all of our other elementary schools, and is considered "industry standard" for a new elementary school.

We want to apologize for an unfortunate breakdown in communication on the part of our administration for not properly conveying this to Dr. Fagan and the new Greystone PTO. We accept full responsibility for this and apologize for any angst or upset it's caused. We also want to assure you that your donations will not go to waste and have already been used to purchase an additional piece of playground equipment that will be installed this fall.

Historically, the PTO's at each of our elementary schools have chosen to fund additional pieces of playground equipment for their schools, adding to and upgrading aging playground structures. For instance, some have chosen to purchase add-on pieces of equipment that are not usually standard with most school playgrounds. It was never the intent of the school district, however, that the brand-new Greystone PTO would fund the majority of our new playground.

Unfortunately, in the process of finalizing our plans for the playground, we had a communication breakdown about what the district was paying for, what the PTO might fund, what additional monies might be needed, and who would provide them. Again, I want to apologize to you for this miscommunication, and let you know that we have a very clear, workable plan moving forward:

- To date, the Greystone PTO has collected approximately \$25,000 in donations from parents and businesses that will be used to purchase a climbing globe structure. We are extremely grateful to the PTO for their hard work fundraising, as well as to all who donated. The PTO operated with complete fidelity in this process, and was raising funds with the assumption that the PTO would be shouldering most of the cost of the playground. Again, the fault here is all the district's, not the PTO or Dr. Fagan.

- Unfortunately, due to pandemic-related construction and equipment delays beyond our control, **it appears the installation of the playground might be delayed by a few weeks.** We are working diligently with our contractors to try to expedite installation, and we have a plan for recess for our students who may be without a full playground for the first few weeks of school. We'll be sure that mobile equipment like balls, hoops, cones, etc. are available and we'll be working with staff to help to organize games and activities for students outside on the school's fields and blacktop. Dr. Fagan will certainly keep you updated.

As educators, we fully understand how important a great play space is for our students, and we believe that the playground we're building will provide that. The fundraising that's been done will only make that playground more enjoyable. Here's a link to the [Greystone Playground Rendering](#) that will be going in this fall. You can see the PTO-funded piece of equipment on this drawing.

Again, I apologize that our communication over this important issue broke down. I'm also very sorry that we are experiencing installation delays. I appreciate your patience as we work to open our new school and welcome students to Greystone. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jscanlon@wcasd.net or 484-266-1090.

Thank you for your support for Greystone!

Sincerely,



Dr. Jim Scanlon
Superintendent