

September 9, 2021

Dear Elementary Grizzly Cubs Parent/Guardian,

Prior to your child being matched up with a Glacier Peak High School Grizzly Cub for the 2021-2022 school year, it is important that the following information be shared.

Grizzly Cubs comes from the Panther Pal program which was established over 20 years ago at Snohomish High School to bring Snohomish elementary students together with high school students. The goal of the program is to provide the elementary students with positive role models. Glacier Peak High School students will go through a screening process before they are assigned an elementary Grizzly Cub. High school Grizzly Cubs come from all areas of educational and cocurricular programs. Every effort is made to match up students of similar interests. However, there are often not enough male high school Grizzly Cubs signed up, so some male elementary Grizzly Cubs receive a female high school Grizzly Cub. As the club advisor I will do my best to match elementary cubs to the appropriate high schooler in order to provide the best mentoring experience. Prior to COVID-19, in 2019 over 150 elementary Grizzly Cubs were matched up with a high schooler so I am hopeful that our club will have even more members this year!

There will be a scheduled event every month that will be sponsored by the Glacier Peak High School Associated Student Body (ASB). It is the sole discretion of the parents/guardians of the elementary Grizzly Cub as to the activities in which the child participates. Transportation is also left up to the parent of the elementary Grizzly Cub. **Any arrangements made concerning non-sponsored activities and transportation arrangements for a sponsored Grizzly Cub event will be left up to the discretion of the parents. No transportation is arranged through Grizzly Cubs with the exception of the high school lunch visit- school buses will provide transportation for that event. Under no circumstances are the high school grizzlies allowed to provide transportation to the elementary cubs.**

Communication is the most important factor in the success of the Grizzly Cubs program. It is vital that the high school Grizzly Cub and the elementary Grizzly Cub communicate with one another as to their respective intentions and concerning the Grizzly Cub/ASB sponsored activities. **Communication is a two-way medium and the responsibility of keeping in contact falls on both the elementary Grizzly Cubs and the High School Grizzly.** Nobody wants a broken-hearted youngster to be stood up by their Grizzly. And high schoolers are busy, so they need to know if their cub is not planning on coming to an event. The phone numbers of each Grizzly Cub/High School Grizzly will be provided so that any conflicts that do arise can be handled between the Grizzly Cubs. Please contact the advisor if there are any issues that arise. Grizzly Cubs is not a baby-sitting service. It is a fun mentorship program that benefits both the elementary and high school students!

It should also be understood that each Grizzly Cub relationship will vary in the amount of time that the two grizzlies/cubs spend together. Some High School Grizzlies and Grizzly Cubs will see or talk to each other weekly while other High School Grizzlies and Grizzly Cubs may only see their Grizzly Cub once a month. It is important to remember that not all Grizzly Cubs can make all the activities. **Parents/guardians, it is vital that you become involved in the Grizzly Cub relationship so that communication channels and expectations are understood by all. The only problems that have resulted in the past years have been due to lack of communication.**

Living in the Snohomish School District affords your student numerous opportunities to grow and mature in a great community. Grizzly Cubs is just one of those opportunities. When all participants adhere to the suggestions above, Grizzly Cubs becomes a very memorable part of the school year. Thank you for your support of the Grizzly Cubs program and the Snohomish School District.

Sincerely,

Sheila Proctor-Long
Grizzly Cubs Advisor

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