



August 6, 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy summer! I hope that this letter finds you all well, and enjoying the beautiful weather we have been blessed with. The change of pace that summer provides is certainly allowing for some rest, relaxation and rejuvenation! It is hard to imagine, but soon we will be very pleased to welcome all of our existing families back for the start of another school year, and we look forward to welcoming many new families into the fold! I would like to take this opportunity to communicate some *very important* information regarding the opening of the 2018-2019 school year.

During the summer months here at the school, we are busily preparing to kick-off another wonderful year for your children. Mr. Guillotte has been working tirelessly to make certain our school is ready for reopening. Textbooks and supplies have arrived and new faculty members have been hired. When we return at the end of August, we look forward to celebrating all of this with you, as we ready ourselves to embrace all of the excitement that a new school year brings!

Once again this year, we will hold our **Welcome Back Parent Night** after the start of the school year. For this reason, it is imperative that we distribute the information and important documents that *must* be filled out prior to the start of school. We will be opening our school doors and inviting you to stop in during our summer office hours beginning on Tuesday, August 14th. At this time you can *drop off* your child(ren)'s classroom supplies and *pick up* your folder here at the school. Planners will also be available for purchase for students in Grades 1-8 for \$6 each. Please note that planners are *mandatory* for all students in Grades 1-8. It is preferred that all clearly labeled supplies are brought to the school by Thursday, August 23rd. If for some reason your vacation schedule does not allow for a visit to the school, please contact the office to make arrangements to pick up your parent folder, as all paperwork *must be completed and submitted* to the main office on the first day of school.

Our annual **Welcome Back Parent Night (K-8)** will take place on Wednesday, September 5th from 6:30- 8:00pm. This gathering of *parents only* will allow for communication of pertinent information including any new handbook items, as well as any changes in policies or procedures. Parents will also have the opportunity to visit classrooms, which will be in full swing by then, and teachers will be able to speak candidly about your child(ren)'s first week of school. The evening will serve as an Open House, as you will have the opportunity to not only see the classroom that your child is in, but also the work he/she has completed and the classroom routines/procedures he/she is expected to follow daily.

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The following is worthy of noting and adding to calendars as necessary:

- **The First Day of School for students in Grades 1-8 is Tuesday, August 28th.** It is a full day of school, so will begin as always at 8:20am and dismissal will be begin following afternoon announcements at 2:25pm.
- The first day of school for our kindergarteners, **“A Big Day for K”**, will take place on **Wednesday, August 29th**. Kindergarteners begin a day later to allow for an orientation and to avoid the “first day of school rush”, giving them a special day of their own. Mrs. Jason will be meeting her students in the school lobby this day, and drop off will be between 8 and 8:15am.
- A **Pre-K Informational Meeting** is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, August 30th at 10am**. Small Wonders (PS3) and both Preschool 4 (PS4) parent(s) and students should report to the gym for a brief meeting, and will then proceed to classrooms for a visit with your child’s teacher where they will explain classroom routines, procedures and expectations for the school year. Students in Small Wonders (PS3) and both Preschool 4 (PS4) classes are to be dropped off by a parent/guardian for their first day of school at **9:00am on Tuesday, September 4th**.
- **Extended care** will be available both in morning and afternoon, starting on students’ first day of school. Please note that in order to continue to offer varied after-school opportunities for students, it was necessary to increase the extended care fee to **\$4.50 per hour** this year. For your scheduling purposes, please notice there will be **NO EXTENDED on our half-day Friday, August 31st**. All students will be dismissed at 11:30am on that day for the Labor Day holiday weekend.
- Please plan on packing a lunch and snacks for your child(ren) in the first couple of days as there will be **no hot lunches available until Thursday, August 30th** (with no hot lunch on the Friday August 31st (half-day)). Snacks should be **peanut-free**, until the allergy status of individual classrooms is determined. Please refer to our website for the August/September menu.
- All students will be expected to be in their **required uniform** and in full compliance of the dress code on the first day of school. Although we will not be attending Mass that day, we do ask that middle school students (6-8) wear their Special Occasion Dress Uniforms as we hope to have many first day of school photo opportunities. Our opening Mass for the 2018-2019 school year will take place on **Friday, August 31st** at 9am for Grades K-8.
- Supply lists and summer packets can be located easily on our school website. Please contact Donnelly’s for any of your uniform needs. There is a quick link to their website on our school homepage. Our Swap Shop (located at the bottom of the main school stairwell) is also open all summer during office hours for any uniform needs/exchanges. Please pay special attention to the uniform requirements, as well as expectations for shoes, accessories, jewelry, hairstyles /highlights, etc. as articulated in the Dress Code section of the 2018-19

Parent/Student Handbook as well as on the 2018-19 SFX Uniform Code found in the Appendix and also linked on our website. I have seen some fun and funky summer hairstyles that will need to be in compliance by the onset of the school year!

- All new and transfer students must have birth certificates and current health information on file before the start of school.
- **A reminder from the school nurse:**
 - If your child requires any medication while at school please bring them in as soon as possible and complete the required additional paperwork. We do not have a stock supply of epi-pens and each child requires their own while at school . Any questions, please contact the school office.
 - All returning students must also have a recent physical on file with our school nurse, as well as current immunizations.
- Acushnet residents interested in bus transportation for the 2018-2019 school year should make certain that contact has been made with Amaral Bus Company at your earliest convenience.

In mid-August please be on the lookout for another email with more announcements and reminders as we get closer to the first day of school. And, as always, remember that our school website is an extremely valuable resource for all updates and information, so please visit frequently and most especially when questions might arise.

As much as I look forward to seeing you all and opening our school doors to the 2018-2019 school year, I do hope the time passes a bit slowly to savor these summer days!

Enjoy a safe and fun-filled conclusion to your time together this summer.

God bless-

Mrs. Michelle L. Russo
Principal