



Melissa Signore
Principal

Woodside Elementary School
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August 2019

Dear Woodside Parents:

At Woodside School we've been busy working hard to prepare for the 2019-2020 school year. Although school ended, our teachers were busy with either curriculum writing or staff development opportunities. In addition, we've reorganized, did some improvements to our facilities, made room for the grades 3-5 LLD program, which was moved to Woodside School from Roberge School. Our school garden yielded a lot of fruits and vegetables and it's been nice to see some of our community come over to the garden during the summer. In the midst of our preparations for next school year, we've also had Camp Have Some Fun at Woodside this summer. It's been so nice hearing children laugh and play at Woodside, which is typically quiet during the summer months.

I hope your summer has been relaxing and filled with opportunities to travel, connect with friends, and spend time with family. The summer is often a time of growth, change, and new experiences when many milestones are met and memories are made. I'm hopeful that you've had the opportunity to experience these special moments with your children over the summer months. I would like to take this opportunity to share some important information and updates with you regarding this upcoming school year, beginning with how we will be sharing your child's teacher placement with you.

Class Placement

Once again, we are excited to share your child's teacher placement via Genesis. It is our hope that this will avoid a delay in receiving this information due to summer vacations and other plans. This information will be available to access on **Thursday, August 22nd beginning at 9:00 a.m.** To view your child's teacher, simply log into Genesis and navigate to the "student summary" screen. There you will see your child's teacher listed below your son/daughter's picture. While you are logged in you will be able to access important forms that require your electronic acknowledgement. Please see directions below for accessing these forms.

Accessing Forms in Genesis

The Genesis Parent Portal Forms Section will be open August 22nd and will contain forms that require your electronic acknowledgement. Please log-in to complete your electronic acknowledgement for all required forms. Once logged on the portal, click on "Forms" to display the forms that are available for each of your children. Click on each form and answer the question by clicking the appropriate check box, and then finalize by clicking "Update Answers" at the bottom of the screen. These electronic acknowledgements must be completed by **September 5.**

Canvas Parent Observer Accounts

Canvas is the district Learning Management System (LMS) where students and parents can see important class information including assignments, due dates and more. Parents have "Observer Accounts" that provide visibility into their child's education. Though these accounts are optional for parents, we do strongly recommend that you take advantage of them if you would like to see teacher course pages. (Note: Teachers do not have public webpages).

Benefits of Canvas Observer Accounts:

- See all of your child's class/course information in one simple interface
- See assignments, due dates and more
- A secure environment for collaboration (only registered users have access)
- Download the Canvas Mobile App for use on your smartphone

Please be aware that if you log into your Parent Observer Account, you will not see any student/teacher course information until the *school year officially begins.*

Visit http://www.rivervaleschools.com/parent_resources/canvas if you do not already have an account! (Usernames and Passwords for existing accounts are still active)

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District Goals

As we get ready to start the 2019-2020 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on last year's learning. We spent a great deal of effort on working toward our district's Portrait of a Graduate. We deepened our understandings of 21st century learning. We fostered students' ability to think critically and creatively. This year will prove to be a continuation of this learning community and working toward our Portrait of a Graduate. We will place a particular focus on aligning communication, collaboration, and critical & creative thinking to the explicit tenets of the Portrait of a Graduate.

Communication

In a continuous effort to communicate clearly and efficiently with our parents and community, we will be sending communication updates and school happenings via Twitter and Facebook in addition to the periodic e-blasts you have been accustomed to receiving. Please follow the Woodside Twitter feed (@WoodsideES) and our Facebook Page (@woodsideelementaryschool). Consistent and transparent communication between schools and parents help to provide a positive, supportive environment for children. For additional school information, including the student handbook and student code of conduct, please visit our website at rivervaleschools.com and click on Woodside School.

Staffing Updates

Woodside School is pleased to welcome the grades 3-5 LLD teacher, Ms. Rachel Hadley. Ms. Hadley comes to us from Roberge School where she was teaching grades 3-5 LLD. We now have both our K-2 and 3-5 LLD programs at Woodside. Moving the whole district program to Woodside School allows for consistency for our students and greater collaboration for our teachers. We welcome Ms. Hadley to our WES family.

Our incoming fourth-grade class will remain at two sections with Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Boyce making up the fourth grade teaching team. Third grade will go back to three sections to accommodate the upcoming grade-level size. Mrs. Cottiers will teach the third section of third grade along with Mrs. Rome and Mrs. Nyfenger. Mrs. Cottiers is filling in for Mrs. Lauria while she is on a leave of absence. Mrs. Cottiers is an interventionist teacher at Woodside School and is familiar with our students and staff. Her skill set with both a general education and special education degree will foster our third graders' academic and social growth. She is experienced with both the New Jersey State Learning Standards and the district's curriculum. Mrs. Elaine Barrett is assigned as the long-term replacement teacher for Mrs. Cottiers' part-time special education/B.S.I assignment. Mrs. Barrett holds a special education certification, has over 30 years of teaching experience, and has substituted for many years in the district and is very familiar with our school. She previously did a long-term teaching assignment for Woodside School and we are pleased she was available to fill in for Mrs. Cottiers and work at Woodside School again. She is expected to begin her assignment mid-September due to a previously scheduled assignment at Holdrum Middle School. Until she arrives we have secured a consistent substitute, Mrs. Lisa Corvo. Mrs. Corvo is also a regular substitute for the district and we are thankful she can help out. Mrs. Corvo has substituted for Mrs. Cottiers' classes before which will make for a smooth transition.

In addition to these changes, Mrs. Arbadji has moved from teaching kindergarten to second grade. Ms. Paccione moved from teaching second grade to kindergarten. Both teachers are very excited to join the teams and have already done extensive planning with their teaching partners.

Please also join me in congratulating Ms. Stewart on her recent marriage. She now goes by the name Mrs. May. We wish her a lifetime of happiness!

School Hours for 2019-2020

The following times apply to both Roberge and Woodside Schools. School begins promptly at 8:45 a.m. each day. Students arriving to classrooms after that time will be marked tardy. If you arrive after the start time, please be sure to sign your child into school in the front office. We will continue to provide adult supervision outside classroom doors where students may begin to line up, starting at 8:25 a.m. Listed below are the school hours.

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Student Drop Off: May begin at 8:25 a.m.
School Begins: Promptly at 8:45 a.m.
Kindergarten Dismissal: 3:00 p.m.
Dismissal (Grades 1-5): 3:05 p.m.

We will continue to staff morning arrivals on the “Kiss and Go” line. The “Kiss and Go” line is aimed at keeping the morning arrival safe and smooth. Please have students ready in advance for a quick exit from the car. Parents should remain inside their car during the drop-off process in order to speed up the flow of traffic. Should you wish to walk your child to the front door, please be sure to park in one of the parking spaces in the front or side of the building. Parking is not permitted in the “Kiss and Go” line. For the safety of our students please refrain from dismissing children from the car until you have reached our drop-off zone. At the drop off zone we will have staff waiting to help open the car door and assist your child.

At 8:45 the front doors are shut and become locked to secure the building. If arriving after the doors are shut, you must accompany your child to the main office and sign them into school. Students who are late should not enter and sign themselves into school.

Kindergarten Arrival

We welcome parents/guardians of kindergarteners to escort students into the building for the first day of school between 8:50 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Please “read” your child, take cues from them as they settle into the classroom, and quietly depart so children can transition to their teacher and new classroom environment. Parents should be prepared to leave no later than 9:00 a.m.

Lunch/Recess Times

Listed on the chart below are the lunch times for this school year.

Time	Lunch Schedule	Recess Schedule
12:00	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5
12:30	Grades 3-5	Grades K-2

Back-to-School Night

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, September 19, 2019. We look forward to sharing this annual event with our parents. The night begins with a session for grades 3-5 at 7:00 p.m. and then at 8:00 p.m. for parents with students in grades K-2.

Back to School Forms

The Family Dismissal Form is online and can be found on the WES homepage www.rivervaleschools.com. Please make sure this form is completed and returned to your classroom teacher on the first day of school.

Principal’s Advisory Council

The Board of Education and principals have agreed to continue the Principal’s Advisory Councils in each school. The purpose of the Principal’s Advisory Council is to keep parents informed about the events at school and to create a dialogue between parents and the administration of the school. The council is comprised of one parent from each grade level, two teacher representatives, and is chaired by the principal. If you are interested in serving as a member on the Principal’s Advisory Council, please click on the link to fill out the form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJVyurHer7QvN3EPumuwbTEaBR3lZkBp4jwAR0_ejdsI-8yQ/viewform?usp=sf_link



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I am looking forward to the start of a new school year and the opportunity to watch your children grow, discover, and mature over the course of the year. I deeply value our partnership and am eager to continue our work together to ultimately make your child's Woodside experience one that is enriching, inspiring, and lots of fun!

Enjoy these last couple weeks of summer; I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, September 5th.

Fondly,

Melissa Signore
Principal