

I am so very excited to welcome all our children back to in-person learning and hope that your families have remained safe and healthy during this difficult time. We have missed seeing and working with our students and are excited to plan for their return. Although we have seen some of our children, we understand that many of them have never been in our building. We are providing an opportunity for these students to meet in our cafeteria at 3:00 pm on September 2, 2021 directly after our Sneak-A-Peak that runs from 2:00-3:00 pm on that day, for a brief orientation and tour. Please remember to wear a mask.

In an effort to make sure students get to know each other again, we are asking that each child bring three artifacts that speak to something they love or are good at to share in a community building activity on the first day of school.

Examples include things like pictures, recipes, baseball caps, football memorabilia, an award, and or something from a trip they may have taken. We will continue with wellness activities like this each day for 25 minutes and hope this is one small way to make sure our students feel welcome and safe.

Please let a teacher or an administrator know if you feel that your child needs extra supports. We have a full-time guidance counselor, a PPW, social worker, psychologist as well as an experienced learning lab assistant who are always willing to speak with you as you encounter any problems. This amazing support staff works with individual students, families and

groups. Our master teachers and teaching assistants are also willing and able to help students and parents at all times.

In addition to the above, we are now a Community School which means that we have been provided extra funds to assist our parents, students and community. Through this program we will continue to build partnerships that support student achievement, a positive learning environment and the well-being of students by providing wrap-around services. Janet Liimata is the manager of this grant and has been busy planning many events and services to support our Park family. These funds have already been tapped to build raised beds for our students to garden, purchase equipment for an outdoor classroom, hire an experienced Suzuki instructor so that all of our first graders can begin violin, pay for extra assemblies, and to develop more clubs around the arts.

Our custodial staff has also been busy making sure the building is ready for students on September 8 when doors will open to all students in grades 1-5 at 8:55 am. (Pre-K and Kindergarten students will receive a letter informing them of their staggered start date.) Instruction begins promptly at 9:15 am and ends at 3:40 pm. We can't wait for our students to arrive!