



Woodland School
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August 2017

Dear Woodland School Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you back to another fantastic year at Woodland School. I hope that your summer has been relaxing, enjoyable and filled with lasting memories. Being able to spend quality time with my own children this summer has been very special. Our extended family (16 of us) had an amazing time in Costa Rica at the end of July. If you have never been there I would highly recommend it. The people of Costa Rica are extremely friendly, the food is great and the sights are out of this world. The highlight of the trip was a zip line tour across the Costa Rican rainforest. However, the best thing about the trip was watching my children smile as they made wonderful memories with the entire family. As my daughter prepares for 7th grade and my son gets ready for 4th grade, I am reminded about how quickly time goes. With each new year my hope is that they spend their days with teachers who are positive, happy, supportive, dedicated and caring. I imagine that you feel the same way. While I am proud of every aspect of Woodland School, I am most proud to say that these are the types of teachers that your children spend their days with. I continue to be honored to be a part of such a wonderful learning environment and cannot wait to watch your children continue to flourish into intelligent, kind, caring and positive human beings.

As a staff we are very excited about the wonderful things we have planned for the 2017-2018 school year and look forward to working with you to give your child(ren) the best learning experience possible. This year's theme will be a sports theme focused on the importance of teamwork, the value of hard work and the success that can come with perseverance. Classrooms, hallways, school wide events and weekly messages will be centered on our theme. The summer reading book, *"Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends"* by David Stabler, chronicles some famous athletes and how they overcame obstacles to be successful in their professions.

Important Changes for 2017-2018:

School Hours/ Arrival and Dismissal

As a reminder, our school hours have changed for this year. The official school day starts at **8:50** and will end at **3:30**.

Student drop off begins at 8:40

Student pick up will begin at 3:20

If your child goes to after school care, a schedule must be sent with your child on the first day of school outlining which days of the week your child attends. Please place this note and schedule in a **separate** envelope addressed to the teacher.

As a reminder, if your child is going to be picked up from school, please send in a note and have your child deliver this note to his or her teacher in the morning. Please don't use email as a mode to communicate this information.

New 6 Day Schedule

The District is moving to a 6 day schedule for specials this year. No longer will students have the same special on a Monday, for example. We are very excited that this will allow all children to have Physical Education three times in a 6 day cycle and also experience Art, Music, and Library/Computers/Innovation & Design. Students in grades 2 through 5 will also have Spanish throughout their six day cycle. Your child will be receiving information about their specials schedule which also includes a calendar of the days for the school year during the Walk-Through. Each family will receive a calendar that will outline days one through six for the entire year as well as your child's specials for given days.

New Visitor Management System

As noted in Dr. Mingle's recent letter, we have improved district security measures by adding a Visitor Management System. This system will require an I.D. for entry in to our building. Furthermore, we will now be able to print out a customized visitor badge with each visitor's picture on it. As you can imagine, we are excited about these additions to our security measures as they add a strong layer of protection for your children, our staff, and our community. I strongly encourage all parents to avail themselves for pre-enrollment into our new VMS system, which will be on Tuesday, August 29th from 12-3. Please come prepared with your driver's license or passport and know that each person will only take a few minutes to process. Having parents pre enroll during the week of August 28th will help us all avoid the bottleneck that may ensue if done during the school year. Thanks in advance for trying to get in during that week.

Recess/Lunch Times

First recess: Kindergarten and Second grades 11:40 - 12:05

First lunch: Kindergarten and Second grades 12:10 – 12:35

Second recess: Third and Fifth grades 12:10-12:35

Second lunch: Third and Fifth grades 12:40-1:05

Third recess: First and Fourth grades 12:40-1:05

Third lunch: First and Fourth grades 1:10-1:35

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- **Thursday, August 24th:** Parents will receive an email notification of both their child's homeroom teacher and bus assignment. Due to our security audit, class lists will not be provided in this mailing.
- **Wednesday, September 6th:** Our Walk-Through will take place from 2:00 – 2:30pm. Children and their families are invited to visit their classrooms, meet their teachers, and become generally acquainted with their new schedule and the building.
- **Thursday, September 7th:** The **first day of school** for students is a **full day**. **Please be sure to send your child with a snack and a lunch** as Simply Gourmet does not start until Monday, September 11th.
- **Monday, September 11th:** Simply Gourmet Food Days
- **Tuesday, September 12th:** Individual student school pictures will be taken by *Lifetouch*
- **Wednesday, September 13th:** The PTO New Parent Orientation Meeting will begin at 7:00pm in the APR followed by the PTO Meeting at 7:30pm.
- **Monday, September 18th:** Milk and juice service begins
- **Thursday, September 28th:** Back-to-School Night - A schedule for the evening will be eblasted as soon as possible.

Below is a list of the grade level teachers for the 2017-2018 school year.

Kindergarten- Mrs. Beekman Brink, Mrs. Eitelberg and Miss Traynor

First Grade- Mrs. Brower and Mrs. Stolfi

Second Grade- Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Rzasa

Third Grade- Ms. Lenci, Mrs. McGrath, and Miss Nizri

Fourth Grade- Mrs. Krumm and Mrs. Serafin

Fifth Grade- Mr. Jones, Miss Scuderi and Mr. Yenish

- As a reminder, fourth grade students will be changing classes by homeroom for Writing and Math. Mrs. Krumm will be teaching Math and Mrs Serafin will be teaching Writing for all 4th grade students.
- Students in Grade 5 will also be changing classes by homeroom. Reading will be taught by the student's homeroom teacher while Math will be taught by Mr. Yenish, Writing by Miss. Scuderi and Science/Social Studies by Mr. Jones.

- Our fifth grade students will be receiving 1-1 Chromebooks again this year.
- Third and fourth grade students will be utilizing Chromebooks in classrooms. K-2 will have greater access to iPads and the computer lab.
- Please be sure to visit the Woodland School page on the Warrentboe.org website and download the Student-Parent Handbook. Parents should prepare their child for the school year by reviewing the handbook, bus rules and procedures. **Also, it is imperative that you sign up for email blasts as all important information is now sent home electronically.**

The beginning of a new school year is always exciting and this year is no different. I want to remind you that the partnership between home and school is critical. My door is open and I truly value your support, opinions and feedback. While I grew up idolizing Michael Jordan and Dan Marino, my own parents and teachers have had the greatest impact on my life. Now more than ever, it is essential that we work together to support and provide children with the tools they will need to succeed in life.

The Woodland School staff is enthusiastically waiting for the first day of the 2017-2018 school year. We look forward to seeing you soon. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey Heaney
Principal