

Columbus Elementary School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

580 Columbus Avenue
Thornwood, NY 10594
Telephone: (914) 769-8538
Fax: (914) 769-8512

Mr. Michael Cunzio
Principal
Email: mcunzio@mtplcsd.org

Mrs. Theresa Outhouse
Assistant Principal
Email: touthouse@mtplcsd.org

August, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back! The 2017.2018 school year is fast approaching. I hope that you and your family are enjoying a happy and restful summer.

If you haven't already done so, you can view your child's schedule in the *Parent Portal*. You can see all of the teachers your child will be working with, as well as the subject areas that they teach. Our classes are heterogeneously grouped and every effort is made to create balanced groups. A great deal of thought and consideration go into the planning and placement of your child. Therefore, changes *cannot* be made, as it would impact the composition of the other classes. My professional staff and I review many factors beforehand. These include your child's academic profile, learning style, social and emotional needs, along with the input provided from the questionnaire.

Also, please note that entry into the building is not allowed until the Meet and Greet on Thursday, August 31st.

As part of the budgeting process, the Board of Education and Dr. Susan Guiney, supported the addition of sections in the fourth and fifth grade to reduce class sizes. The teachers are as follows:

- *Ms. Loredana Ugucioni*, has come back to the Columbus staff (from WMS), and will be teaching fourth grade this year.
- *Mr. Tom Lisa* is a new addition to our staff and will be teaching fifth grade. Mr. Lisa has many years of teaching experience in Arizona as well New York.

I am also very pleased to share that Mrs. Carrie Mayer and Mr. Sean Mayer have adopted a baby girl. Mrs. Carrie Mayer will be taking a family leave for the first part of the year. Mrs. Vicky Mendez has been hired as her leave replacement. Mrs. Mendez has many years of teaching experience at the elementary level and will be a nice addition to our staff.

Please also note the addition of the following new staff members to Columbus this year:

- Mrs. Melinda Sheehan – 3rd Grade Special Education
- Mrs. Raquel Dalrymple -- Part Time ENL Teacher

Please see the schedule for you and your children listed below:

MEET and GREET: Parents and children are invited to Columbus on *August 31st from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.* to meet their assigned teacher(s) and see their classrooms.

FIRST DAY of SCHOOL: Tuesday, September 5, 2017

SCHOOL HOURS: 8:00 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

BACK to SCHOOL NIGHT: Thursday, September 14, 2017

MORNING ARRIVALS: *If you choose to drive your child to school, parent drop off is from 7:30 a.m.-7:50 a.m.*

Please note . . .

- **Children who are dropped off must enter directly through the cafeteria door located in the front of the building (off to the side).** This year, we are again able to offer a 7:30 a.m. drop off. Mr. Adam Yaeger (*Home and Careers teacher*) will supervise the children in the cafeteria from 7:30 a.m.- 8:00 a.m. Students will not be able to enter the building *prior* to the 7:30 a.m. drop off time, as there will be no personnel available to provide student supervision.
- **Also between 7:55 a.m. and 8:05 a.m., students cannot be dropped off at the front entrance of the school.** This action is for **STUDENT SAFETY**. The driveway is blocked off and cars are not allowed to pass through between 7:55 a.m. and 8:05 a.m. Students may be dropped off **after 8:05 a.m., once all of the busses have arrived.** At this time, they may enter the building through the main entrance. Please adhere to this important rule.
- Children should never be dropped off on Columbus Avenue.

AFTERNOON PICK-UPS/DISMISSAL:

Student pick-up is in the cafeteria – ***not the main lobby***. All students being picked up will report to the cafeteria at **2:55**. You may enter the cafeteria directly through the outside door (on the side of the building) beginning at 2:45 to sign your child out. If you need to pick your child up **before 2:45**, you will then need to come to the front entrance of the building to sign them out. *Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

BUS INFORMATION/TRANSPORTATION:

- Your child's bus information can be viewed in the *Parent Portal*. We strongly encourage you to have your child ride the bus on the first day of school, *Tuesday, September 5, 2017*, so that the bus driver will immediately become accustomed to stopping for your child. If you have any questions regarding these routes, you may call the ***Business Office (769-5500)***.
- We also ask that if your child will not be riding his or her bus on a particular day (for a play date, babysitter, etc.), that you send a note with your child to give to the teacher for that given day.

The *District School Calendar* is available on the district website and will be distributed to the *youngest* child in each family attending the school system. Please visit our school website on a daily basis to be kept up to date on any news, information, school supply lists, etc.

Let me say in closing that we are delighted to have you and your child as members of our school community. It is our foremost goal this year - *and every year* - to make your child's learning experience at Columbus Elementary School a truly meaningful one!

We also would like to thank you for your patience with regard to the construction that has been in place since June.

Sincerely,

Michael Cunzio
Michael Cunzio, Principal

Theresa Outhouse
Theresa Outhouse, Assistant Principal