

August 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School will be starting soon and before we officially welcome you all back on September 7th I wanted to update you on what has been taking place while you were on vacation. During the summer Ardena's gym floor received a face lift. The old floor was removed and a new floor was installed, painted and sealed. It looks magnificent! I can't wait to see our student's faces when they go to their first gym class! The Main Office, Principal's Office and Vice-Principal's Office was also painted a pretty shade of blue. It really looks nice. We can't thank our custodial staff enough! They work so hard over the summer months to ensure that every inch of our beautiful building sparkles when the children return.

We also had a few staff changes. Mrs. Cutillo joins us this year returning from a maternity leave. Prior to going out on maternity, Mrs. Cutillo was one of our district math coaches and previously taught third grade. We are thrilled that she joined our family. During the 2017- 2018 school year, Ms. Weigle, Mrs. Roszak, Mrs. Deredita, and Mrs. Besignano will be rounding out our dedicated third grade team.

Our fourth grade team has two new additions, Ms. Giameo moved up from teaching third grade and Ms. Quigley is our new family member. Ms. Quigley is an experienced professional who previously taught fourth grade in Virginia. Ms. Thompson, Mrs. Beelitz, Ms. Grande and Ms. East complete our passionate fourth grade team. In fifth grade, our new staff member is Mrs. Towlen. Mrs. Towlen is a dedicated professional who has been in our district for several years and is excited to start her new adventure here at Ardena. Mrs. Towlen joins Ms. Sweeney, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Peine, Mr. Fazio, and Ms. Reilly to complete the highly skilled fifth grade team.

Our new special education teacher is Mr. Ethan Berger who we will be sharing with Adelpia School. He will be here during the first two periods of each day working alongside Mrs. Sutphen, Mrs. Eisenhour, Mrs. Cook, and Mrs. Straus who together uniquely support our special education students.

Your children will be greeted in the cafeteria by a familiar face, Mrs. Nandra Bryan who became our cafeteria lead this year replacing Mrs. Mohr who retired. Mrs. Bryan knows and greets each of your children by name, remembers some of their lunch preferences, and is always quick with a smile and a warm hello. We are thrilled that she is joining our team in this position.

In other exciting news, we are launching a unique schedule that surrounding districts have implemented with much success which impacts how your child receives math and language arts instruction. Teachers have been paired and assigned either math or language arts as a curricular focus with one exception. The pairing of teachers requires an even number of staff members to be assigned to the grade level. Our third grade team has five sections of classes. Therefore, one teacher will have a traditional schedule while the four other teachers on the grade level will be paired for instructional purposes. Pairing of teachers allows for teachers to specialize in their content area, planning specifically for their area of expertise. The instruction delivered for all students will be identical with the only exception being who is delivering the instruction. Students who have been assigned to a pair of teachers will be taught math with one teacher and language arts with another teacher while the traditional schedule has the homeroom teacher teaching all content areas.

The following pairs of teachers have been assigned:

Grade 3

Math	LA
Ms. Weigle	Mrs. Roszak
Mrs. Cutillo	Mrs. Besignano
**	Mrs. Deredita will be teaching both math and language arts.

Grade 4

Math	LA
Ms. Thompson	Ms. Grande
Mrs. Beelitz	Ms. Giameo
Ms. Quigley	Ms. East

Grade 5

Math	LA
Mr. Fazio	Mrs. Towlen
Ms. Sweeney	Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Peine	Mrs. Reilly

The Parent Portal opens on August 28th at 12pm. And you will be able to review your child's homeroom teacher. Once you receive your child's homeroom placement, you will be able to determine the second academic teacher who will be part of your child's instructional day. For example, if the Parent Portal indicates that your child's teacher is Ms. Weigle, referring to the chart above will indicate that your child will receive math instruction from Ms. Weigle and LA instruction with Mrs. Roszak.

During the first nine days of school, time will be dedicated each day for homeroom teachers to work with their students on specific academic outcomes, school and classroom cultures and leadership habits and principles. Then, on September 20th parents will be invited in to school to have lunch with their child and learn more about their child's first few days of school.

On September 20th the lunch times for parent visitation will be as follows:

Grade 4 – 11:10 – 11:40

Grade 3 – 11:50 – 12:20

Grade 5 – 12:30 – 1:00.

More information will be coming home shortly regarding these special visitations, but I wanted you to have it in advance in case you needed to make arrangements for younger siblings or alter work schedules if you planned on attending.

I hope you continue to enjoy these last few days of summer. The staff will be returning on September 1, September 5 and 6 for professional learning and the first day for students will be on September 7th. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Deborah Pennell, Ed.D.

Principal

Ardena School