



August 27, 2018

Dear General Wayne Elementary Families:

We're On Our Way
By trolley, by train,
By foot, by sleigh,
 by cab, by car
we're on our way----
By boat, by bridge,
 by bike, by bus,
On wheels, on wings,
Each one of us,
has dreams in our pockets
and stories to share
 as we open up doors
to school everywhere....
and a rain might mist,
a wind might blow;

the sun might shine
on our morning hello,
and a storm might brew
in the sky, let it try,
but the magic of wonder
won't pass us by,
we're on our way
 to school,

Rebecca Kai Dotlich

The GWES staff is eagerly awaiting the start of the 2018 – 2019 school year. This is my favorite time of the year because I get to catch up with our returning students, as well as establish new relationships with the newest members of our community. This year we are very fortunate to welcome over 100 new students to our school. I can hardly wait see familiar faces and meet all the new friends. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Mark, our head custodian and his team for another amazing summer cleaning. The building is sparkling clean and waiting for the staff and students return!!!!

We are looking forward to starting this year off with many exciting events, such as our first day of school on September 4th, The Nelson Family (musical group) Assembly, Back to School Night, Fall PTO BBQ and our Fall Fundraiser to name just a few. Additionally, for new families, I will host a New Parent Orientation Night on August 29th at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium. If you are unable to make this event or do not have an opportunity to introduce yourself and would like to, I strongly recommend you do so via many platforms, including email or evening events. I find it extremely important to know all families, but I need your help as well in this effort.

Moreover, I would also like to update you on staffing changes we made throughout the summer.

- Kindergarten: 2 AM sessions/1 PM session: Mrs. DeMillion (AM/PM), Ms. VanOcker (AM), Ms Topley (GB)
- First Grade: Mrs. Cook, Ms. Lojek, Ms. Salvatico, Mrs. Emily Vogt, Ms. Carolyn Stewart (due to enrollment growth)
- Second Grade: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. DiOttavio, Mrs. Packer, Mrs. Ferraioli
- Third Grade: Mrs. Dammeyer, Mrs. MacDonald (new from KDM), Mrs. Sullivan (Mrs. Shari Walker-Substitute starting 9/11), Mrs. Van Alstyne
- Fourth Grade: Mrs. Butville (new from KDM), Mrs. Sharer (formerly Ms. Severino), Mrs. Stairs, Mrs. White

• Fifth Grade: Mr. Jameson, Ms. Mills, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Sahijwani (formerly Ms. Nager)
Learning Support: Hild replacement, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Parthemore, Mrs. Raymond and Mrs. Borys
Autistic Support: Replacement
Specials: Mr. Schmidt (Library), Mr. Shafer (Music), Ms. Regula (Art), Mr. Fulmer & Mr. Kasper (PE) and TBD-Steam.

I welcome everyone; both new and returning and I am positive they will all contribute tremendously to our already outstanding team.

After integrating all the changes throughout the summer, we are extremely excited to be back at GWES, on our mission to create passionate, lifelong learners.

Below is a Back to School Informational Sheet, which is intended to stimulate the excitement that comes from the first day of school. Please make yourself familiar with this important school opening information:

- Student bus information and the student handbook will be available via our new website through Skyward. Please make sure you check the website for this information!
- Students in the GVSD will be on a six-day cycle. Day 1 will be September 4th.
- Your child's class assignment will be accessible via Skyward/Family Access at noon on Monday, August 27th at noon. Directions will be available on our website.
- The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, September 4th.
- **NEW THIS YEAR!!!!** On August 30th from 3:00-3:30 GWES will host a "Sneak Peek". During this time families and students are welcome to come to GWES to meet their teacher and see the classroom.
- **Please note the elementary hours:**
 - The start of the elementary school day is **8:50 a.m.**
 - **Students should NOT arrive at school before 8:40 a.m. We do not have supervision for early arrivers.**
 - **Students who arrive after 8:50 a.m. will be marked late.**

Parents who drive their children to school must pay special attention to the drop-off and start times.

- During school hours the following traffic patterns will continue to be expected and enforced. There have been many concerns about children's safety walking into school and people parking in the drop off lane. School staff and Willistown Police will be monitoring to assure our students safety.
 - Grubb Road Entrance – school bus and staff traffic ONLY. No student drop-offs, pick-ups, or visitor parking.
 - Devon Road Entrance – all visitor parking and student drop-off and pick-ups. Visitor parking in un-numbered parking spaces only. Numbered spaces are for assigned staff parking.
 - **Absolutely no parking in drop-off lane.** Drop off only! If you arrive early please do not wait in the drop off lane. Park in a parking space until drop off time. This is for the safety of all children entering the school.
- Individuals arriving at GWES from Devon Road will be required to enter through the main office. If continuing into the school, visitors will be required to sign in using our new system. Your driver's license will be necessary to sign in. All visitors are required to sign in/out and wear visitor badges at all times.
- Parents visiting classroom to volunteer on a regular basis and attending field trips will be required to have clearances. Please visit our district website for directions on acquiring these documents.
- All doors will be locked during school hours. You will be required to ring the bell for entrance to the school.
- Children being picked up at dismissal are to be signed out in the cafeteria at dismissal time (3:38). For security and easing of hallway congestion, please sign in and wait in the cafeteria for your child – not in the lobby area.
- The cafeteria's computerized Point-of-Sale system for the purchase of school meals will be in operation on the first day of school. Please consult the district website for more information.
- A reminder, the district collects activity fees for participation in extracurricular activities. Elementary students who participate in extracurricular activities i.e. Reading Olympics, after school sports or

band/orchestra will be required to pay a \$40 fee per activity. Student and family caps apply. Please visit www.gvsd.org for more information about activity fees.

- Check the GWES website for our School Supply list per grade level for necessary school supplies for the 2018-2019 school year.

Do not forget your summer reading assignment and math practice on Dreambox. All students should have been reading and reviewing their math skills by this point. If you have any questions about these activities please visit the GWES website or contact the office for more information.

Lastly, our school does not have an official social media platform; therefore, I respectfully request all your essential information regarding schedules, official school events, policy or changes such as school closures, come from official sources such as my bi-weekly newsletter, school email, teacher newsletters or our GWES web page at <http://www.gvsd.org/Domain/135>. Misleading and inaccurate information has been known to come from sources other than these mentioned.

Enjoy what remains of summer vacation. See you on September 4th!

Fondly,



Bonnie S. Citron
Principal