



August, 2018

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School! We look forward to the return of all of our incredible students and the fun learning experiences that are ahead. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we extend a special greeting to students and families who are new to our school community. We are happy to have you join the GCSD family!

The faculty and staff continuously seek ways to make each child's school day the best it can be! The Building Level Team has already begun using feedback provided by faculty, staff, and parents in planning for the coming year. Our annual goals evolve each year, but our charge remains the same: to help children engage their curiosity and creativity, learn at the highest levels possible, respect themselves and others, and be the best people they can be!

This summer a great deal of work was completed to care for and improve our beautiful school, some examples include:

- A new handwashing station in our cafeteria
- Mobile furniture for the elementary library
- LED lighting on our elementary stage
- Improved basketball courts and blacktop areas on our playground
- An improved access ramp next to the Multi-Purpose room entrance
- Additional security cameras for improved monitoring of school grounds

The Elementary Office will be open from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm on September 4th. However, in order to allow teachers time to complete preparations for students, our classrooms and hallways will be closed to visitors during that time.

The Kindergarten Hallway will be available to families for **Kindergarten Open House** during the afternoon of September 4th. (*Kindergarten families were previously sent a letter that detailed arrival times and parking/entrance instructions; please call with any questions.*)

Families of children in grades 1-5 are invited to our **"Ellis Hallway Walk"** from 3:00-5:00 on September 4th. Families who would like to re-familiarize themselves with classroom locations

by walking the hallways should park in the north parking lot and enter via the main entrance. Please remember that classroom/teacher visits will not be possible during this time, although teachers look forward to speaking with families at our Open House events (see flier).

Our **first day of school will be on Wednesday, September 5th** for all students (grades K-12). Kindergarten students will be brought to their buses for dismissal at 11:30; all students in grades 1-5 will dismiss to buses at the regular dismissal time (2:25pm).

We have several teachers joining the Ellis Faculty this year. It is our pleasure to welcome Kelsey Davidson (Fifth Grade), Patricia Focken (Teaching Assistant), Kate Gruhle (Interim Counselor), Laura Rufa (First Grade), Andrea Whitbeck (Third Grade), Deputy William Wyant (School Resource Officer), and Victor Zeh (Physical Education) to the Scott M. Ellis family! We look forward to introducing several late-summer additions to our aide/monitor and custodial teams in September.

Enclosed with this welcome letter are a number of important materials; we ask that you review these materials before school begins. The Student/Parent Contact Information form is an essential tool for our faculty and staff. Please review, sign, and return the Student/Parent Contact Information form to the Elementary Office as soon as possible. This safety information is updated annually to reflect the changing needs of our families.

The Elementary website is an important source of information about school programs and procedures; the Family Handbook, September Newsletter, and Code of Conduct are posted for your convenience. Once school begins, the newsletter will be replaced by an electronic "Letter from the Principal," which will be used to communicate about the exciting learning of our students, special activities, and upcoming school events. (Please sign up to receive this newsletter via enews, which can be found on the district website.) If you require a paper copy of the newsletter or ongoing letters, please contact the Elementary Office.

We hope the remaining weeks of summer are full of laughter, great books, and fun! All of us at Scott M. Ellis are looking forward to the opening days of school and hope you are too. We invite all students (in grades K-12) to show their **Spartan Spirit** by wearing maroon and white on **Friday, September 7th!**

Sincerely,



Erin DuBois  
Interim Elementary Principal



Daniel Hash  
K-12 Principal/RTI Coordinator



Peter Mahan  
Elementary Principal