



WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School! We are looking forward to the return of students and all of the wonderful experiences that are ahead. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we extend a special greeting to students who are new to our school. We are happy to have you joining our school family!

The Elementary Office will be open from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm on September 6th. However, in order to allow teachers time to complete preparations for students, our classrooms and hallways will be closed to visitors during that time. Elementary families who would like to walk the building with their children are asked to visit the afternoon of September 6th, from 5pm to 7pm. Families who would like to visit should enter via the main entrance. Please remember that teachers will not be available during this time, but they hope to see you all at our Open House events (see flier).

Our first day of school will be on Wednesday, September 7th for students in grades 1-12 and we will follow regular school hours (7:55am - 2:25pm). Kindergarten students will follow a special schedule during the opening days of school; a copy of the first week schedule was sent to kindergarten families earlier this month.

As a school, we continuously seek to make your child's school day the best it can be! We thank everyone who took the time to complete our on-line survey this summer. The Building Level Team has already begun to use your feedback and suggestions 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 be the best people they can be! We look forward to partnering with families as we focus on these tasks!

Scott M. Ellis exists to serve hundreds of children each and every day. Last summer our classrooms were outfitted with technology tools for learning. This summer, contractors focused on the care and improvement of our wonderful building, including:

- Security enhancements at the main entry
- Kindergarten bathrooms were re-tiled, and an ADA compliant bathroom was added to one kindergarten classroom
- PE spaces were abated (removal of asbestos in glue behind the original ceiling tiles)
- Several storage areas were repurposed for student and teacher use
- The District transitioned to use of the town sanitary system

We are thankful to all who have helped us to enhance our beautiful school building!

As many families are aware, Mrs. Travis and Mrs. Lynch-Williams retired in June, and we have selected two outstanding teachers to join our staff. It is my pleasure to welcome Diane Carl and Aliza Scher as part of the Scott M. Ellis faculty. Also, several faculty members have accepted new assignments within our school; information about all staffing assignments is available via the District website.

The best way to stay informed about school events is by reading school, district, and PTA newsletters. Newsletters will be sent directly to parents via email. Newsletters, the Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, and other helpful resources are available on the District website for parents' convenience. Our September newsletter and menu will be available online on August 29th, and will include information that will help familiarize parents with many of our school processes and procedures. We are sure that it will answer many common questions, and hope families are able to read it. After school begins, the newsletter will be replaced by an ongoing "Letter from the Principal," which will be used to communicate about the exciting learning of our students, special activities, and upcoming school events. If you require a paper copy of the newsletter or ongoing letters, please contact the Elementary Office.

Enclosed with this welcome letter are a number of important materials. In order to best serve our families, 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 information is updated annually to reflect the changing needs of our families.

We hope the remaining week of summer is 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 9, 2016!

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education and your dedication to all that is accomplished at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School. Students and their families are our greatest resource!

Sincerely,

Peter Mahan
Elementary Principal

Daniel Hash
Building Principal/RTI Coordinator

Enclosed: Student/Parent Contact Information Form (including email & emergency dismissal location)
Free and Reduced Lunch Application
FERPA Information
Pesticide/Asbestos Statement
Transportation Assignment