



September 21, 2020

Dear Grade K-3 Parent/Guardian,

This is a busy time for children who are learning many new skills. They are reading books, writing stories, solving number problems, and combining techniques to construct a piece of art. These are all important skills for children to learn.

Another area of learning that requires specific skills is social-emotional learning. This is the realm where children learn to understand and manage their feelings, to make friends and to be a friend, and to solve social problems. Research tells us that children who learn and use these skills are more likely to get along with others and do better in school.

This year, your child's teacher will help students think about, develop, and practice positive social skills by using a program called *Second Step*. This program focuses on skills in the following areas:

- **Skills for Learning:** Students gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.
- **Empathy:** Students learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.
- **Emotion Management:** Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
- **Problem Solving:** Students learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Families play a crucial role in the success of the *Second Step* program. Your child's teacher will be emailing home *Home Links* that go with several of the *Second Step* lessons. *Home Links* are simple, fun activities for you and your child to complete together. They are a great way for you to understand what your child is learning and for your child to show you what he or she knows.

To learn more about the program, join www.secondstep.org with the specific activation key below according to your child's grade level:

- **Grade K: SSPKFAMILY70**
- **Grade 1: SSP1FAMILY71**
- **Grade 2: SSP2FAMILY72**
- **Grade 3: SSP3FAMILY73**

Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life.

Sincerely,

Marie Salle Kim, Ed.D.
Principal