

# E. E. LITTLE SCHOOL

7 Barberry Road, North Reading, Massachusetts 01864

August 23, 2022

Dear Little School Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are so excited to have everyone back (and also to welcome many new students and families). Our September is shaping up to be a busy month. I would like to remind parents/guardians that, our main mode of communication is email. Please get into a routine of reading your email daily (to ensure that you don't miss important dates or messages from the school).

## September

- 9/1 – Faculty Professional Development Day (No Students)
- 9/6 – Faculty/staff opening meetings (No Students)
- 9/7 – Opening day for all students in Grades 1-5.
- 9/7 and 9/8 – Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation (by appointment only). If you have not received your appointment letter for Kindergarten Orientation, please contact the Main Office at 978-664-7820, ext. 0. If you have not received your Pre-Kindergarten information, please contact your child's teacher.
- 9/9 – Opening day for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students.

## School Hours

- Pre-Kindergarten – (M, T, Th, F) – 8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. (No before school or after school care available for pre-kindergarten.)
- Half-Day Kindergarten – (M-F) – 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Before school care is available; No after school care available for Half-Day Kindergarten.)
- Grades Full-Day Kindergarten through Grade 5 – (M-F) 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. (Before school and after school care available).
- Early dismissal for all Kindergarten through Grade 5 students is 11:30 a.m. Pre-Kindergarten is not in session on MOST early release days. More information to follow.

Forms are available on the district and school website under “families” for **before and after-school care**. Before school care is supervised by Little School staff. The afterschool program is supervised by the YMCA.

**The start of school is a very busy time of year. There are many “housekeeping” items that we need to take care of very early on AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

### **\*\*PARENT/GUARDIAN ACTION REQUIRED ASAP!\*\***

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORMS by 9/1/2022 (ONE PER CHILD ATTENDING THE LITTLE SCHOOL).**

- 1) Acceptable Use Policy - (One per child attending the Little School).**

<https://forms.gle/1vQiHnekHY2fDpLq9>

- 2) Little School Dismissal Form (One per child attending the Little School). Please be thoughtful and thorough when completing this important form.**

<https://forms.gle/CSA3n4bejDwd4Vuw6>

## Student Arrival

- **Bus:** Kindergarten - Grade 5 students arriving by bus will be directed to line up with their grade level at the specified location:
  - Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – inside the cafeteria
  - Grades 3-5 – inside the gymnasium
- **Live-drop:** Kindergarten – Grade 5 student drop-off occurs at the entrance of the large parking lot. **Please DO NOT ARRIVE prior to 7:45 a.m.** (unless your child is enrolled in the Before-School Program). Children are not allowed to exit vehicles until a staff member is on duty to assist.
- **Walkers/Bike Riders:** Kindergarten – Grade 5 walkers and bike riders should wait at the designated crosswalk to be attended to by the crossing guard.
- **Please DO NOT cut through the woods at the path. This is a safety concern.** Cars are entering the live drop-off area and the parking lot. **Your cooperation is appreciated.**
- Pre-Kindergarten parents/guardians must use the front circular driveway when arriving at school (**no earlier than 8:15 a.m.**) Paraprofessionals will be on duty to assist parents/guardians with their pre-kindergarten children. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE GYMNASIUM WHERE THE “VAN ONLY SIGNS” ARE LOCATED.**
- **TARDY students (K-5)** (after 8:00 a.m.) must enter the Main Office doors and check in with Mrs. Tavoletti so that their arrival can be recorded. Parents/guardians will not be allowed to escort their children to the classroom. Please park in the parking lot (and not in the front driveway loop, as pre-kindergarten parents/guardians will be utilizing that area beginning at 8:15 a.m.)

## Student Dismissal:

- **Bus students (K -5) will be dismissed from the gymnasium to the appropriate bus. Students must have a bus pass visible on their backpack. Children will not be allowed to switch buses.**
- **Walkers will be dismissed from the cafeteria door.**
- **Pick-ups:**
  - Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Old foyer doors, next to cafeteria)
  - Grades 3-5 (double doors of the gymnasium).
  - Pre-K will be dismissed from the rear of the building near the softball fields (blue double doors #16). Parents/guardians should park in the lot and walk to the door to accept children. Please do not leave unattended children in your car. Idling cars are prohibited by law on school property.

## Staffing Changes

Every year we are faced with a few staff changes and this year is no different...

**Kindergarten** - We added a full-day/half-day integrated kindergarten classroom this year (due to high enrollment). Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Rebecca Doherty as the newest addition to our faculty. Mrs. Doherty is fully certified and has previously worked as our building substitute. Many days when she was not acting a substitute, Mrs. Doherty assisted in the kindergarten classrooms. We are thrilled to have her with us this year.

**Grade 3** - Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Meghan Kleinpeter to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Mrs. Kleinpeter was our Academic Interventionist last year. She is highly qualified in elementary education and she will be joining Mr. Lynch and Mrs. Pessotti to round out the third grade team.

**Grades 2, 3, and 5** - Three teachers in the building moved to different grade levels (due to fluctuating enrollment). Mrs. Brown is moving back to second grade, Mrs. Pessotti (formerly known as Ms. McCarthy) is moving to third grade, and Mrs. Reed is moving to fifth grade.

**Academic Support** - Mrs. Linda Emery, previously one of our building substitutes, will be returning as an Academic Interventionist. Mrs. Emery did an amazing job last year and we are so happy to have her stepping into this new role.

**Wedding Bells** rang out for two of our Little School faculty. Ms. McCarthy (now Mrs. Pessotti) (Gr. 3) and Ms. Trahan (now Mrs. Boyle) (Special Education) celebrated their weddings this summer. Congratulations!!!

**Paraprofessionals:**

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Spencer O'Rourke (a former Little School student) as a General Paraprofessional at the Little School. Spencer is replacing Mrs. Kerhulas, who decided to retire during the summer.

Mrs. Lisa Pittore will be taking over the paraprofessional responsibilities in Miss Erin's (Hall) Pre-Kindergarten. This position was made available by the retirement of Mrs. Lentini.

We are in the process of finalizing the hiring of the Kindergarten General Paraprofessional and the 0.4 General Paraprofessional position that we have available.

We are still in need of two building substitutes. Please let me know if you know of anyone qualified and interested in this four-day-a-week position.

We look forward to a wonderful year with a fine group of educators. I know you will join me in giving our newest faculty and staff the warmest welcome.

**Our 2022-2023 Starting Line-Up (classroom teachers/paraprofessionals):**

**Pre-Kindergarten:**

Erin Hall (Paraprofessional: Lisa Pittore)

Andrea Michaud (Paraprofessional: Molly Sullivan)

**Kindergarten:**

Rebecca Doherty (Paraprofessional: TBD)

Kristen Nickerson (Paraprofessional: Susan Welch)

Heidi Kastle (Paraprofessional: Maureen O'Brien)

**Grade 1:**

Emily Barrett

Patricia Elwell

Lauren Kelly

**Grade 2:**

Rosie Brennan

Beth Brown

Michelle Fabian

**Grade 3:**

Meghan Kleinpeter

Phil Lynch

Kelly Pessotti

**Grade 4:**

Christine Gates

Michael Milone

### **Grade 5:**

Amy O'Brien

Kathryn Polcari

Kate Reed

### **Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation**

Kindergarten orientation will take place on 9/7 and 9/8. Parents/Guardians should arrive at the Early Childhood doors (beyond the gymnasium) for your scheduled time appointment. Teachers will greet parents/guardians and students and escort them to the classroom. Children and parents/guardians will be given a tour of the classroom by the teacher.

Pre-Kindergarten students are invited to visit the classroom during a scheduled time on either 9/7 or 9/8. ***Information has been sent from the classroom teachers.***

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **School Supplies:**

If you ordered your child's school supplies from the online ordering system in the spring, the supplies have arrived and have been delivered to the classrooms. Those families that chose not to place an online order should fulfill their grade level supply list (supply lists are on the Little School website (<https://www.north-reading.k12.ma.us/little-elementary>) under the Families tab).

#### **Attendance:**

**Chronic absenteeism affects our State accountability rating.** Please make every effort to have your child attend school daily (and arrive on time). There are multiple vacation weeks scheduled throughout the year and we encourage you to use those days for vacations. This will ensure that your child doesn't miss important curriculum/instruction. Should you decide to schedule a vacation outside of that designated time, school work **WILL NOT** be provided in advance. The student will be responsible for making up all work missed during their absence.

***If your child is going to be absent, please contact the absentee line in the morning (978-664-7820, prompt #2) and provide a reason for the absence.***

#### **Students' Belongings:**

Please label your child(ren)'s belongings with their first and last name. Please, please, please, label your children's sweatshirts, jackets, lunchboxes, water bottles, etc. You would be amazed at how many items are in our "Lost and Found" box each year.

#### **Lunch:**

Lunch will once again be **FREE** to all students for the 2022-2023 school year. Please review the menu with your child, as the students will be responsible for placing their order each morning in their homeroom. Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home. Milk and water will be available for all students. Specific lunch times and snack times will be communicated by the classroom teacher. Snacks may be eaten in the classroom or outside (depending on the weather). Nurse DiSpena will communicate any food allergies and/or restrictions for specific classrooms. Recess will take place prior to lunch. Sharing of food items is not allowed. Please speak to your children about this. Additionally, celebrations at the Little School will be food free. On the rare occasion (for example: hot chocolate for the Polar Express), we will seek permission from parents prior to the event.

#### **Busing:**

Questions about buses (times, bus passes, payment, etc.) should be addressed to the Busing Coordinator, Mrs. Rosaly MacKillop, [rmackillop@nrpsk12.org](mailto:rmackillop@nrpsk12.org) or contact her by phone: 978-526-5252.

### Teacher Communication:

Teachers will be providing information regarding the classroom specials (i.e. Art, Digital Learning, Music, and Physical Education).

### Playground:

The playground will be open for use to **Little School students ONLY during the school day** (and to the general public when school is not in session). The supervision of students on the playground outside of school hours is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/caregiver.

### Dogs:

While I am an avid dog lover, please note...Dogs **ARE NOT ALLOWED** on school property at any time.

### Technology:

All students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 will receive a Chromebook this year. More information to follow.

### Cancellation of School (re: weather-related, etc.):

Families will receive notification regarding weather-related cancellations via Blackboard Connect. Cancellations will also be published to local news channels and on the district website.

### COVID:

Please refer to the emails that have been sent by the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patrick Daly. If a child is ill, please contact Nurse DiSpena at 978-526-5729, [ndispena@nrpsk12.org](mailto:ndispena@nrpsk12.org) to discuss the appropriate protocol.

### Communication:

The school and district websites are great places to find information. Our monthly calendar of events will be posted on our school site, as well as the school lunch menus, etc. Please visit: <https://www.north-reading.k12.ma.us/little-elementary/Pages/index>. Did you know that you can sign up to be notified of any new information that's been added to the school website? Click on **@Notify Me** on the school's home page.

**Again, reading your email is VITAL!** If you don't read your email, you will miss a lot of important information. Please continue to watch your email for important school announcements and schedules. Please note: Most of my emails (and the district emails) will come from **Blackboard Connect**. If for some reason you are aware of someone not receiving emails from us, please direct them to check their SPAM folder, prior to contacting the school.

**Twitter** is used by the administration and many of the teachers in the school to provide up-to-the minute happenings and current events, photographs, etc. The school Twitter handle is: @EELittleSchool

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I am excited to see all my "little" friends back at school. I am confident that we will have a great year of learning. **Please enjoy the remaining days of summer**, and of course, feel free to email me at [cmolle@nrpsk12.org](mailto:cmolle@nrpsk12.org) or contact our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Tavoletti ([ltavoletti@nrpsk12.org](mailto:ltavoletti@nrpsk12.org)) if you have questions or concerns.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Molle  
Principal