

August 13th, 2021

Dear Sandpiper Families,

### **Welcome Back!**

We are so excited to welcome you back as we embark on this 2021/2022 school year. Hopefully you all had time to relax and recharge this summer, and are looking forward to September 1st just like we are.

### **Our Schedule**

We are happy to share that we are back to 5 days-a -week! Our doors will open at 7:50am. School will begin at 8am and we'll end our day at 2:30pm. We have included the District Calendar for your planning purposes. Please note that we have late starts on most of the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for teacher and staff training. This means that the transportation schedule and school start time will run two hours later and school will begin at 10am. Please see the calendar for the exact dates and the Wednesday when it does not apply.

### **Our Staff**

I'm excited to introduce you to our dynamite staff! We have really hit the jackpot here at OPE and I'm not above bragging about the excellent team that will be supporting your students.

To start off, we were able to increase our number of teachers which allows for smaller class sizes so that our students get the focused instruction and attention that they need. We are welcoming six new teacher faces this year. They all come to us with valuable teaching experience and are excited to join our Sandpiper community.

In third grade we have Tracey Crook joining forces with Justine Bishop and Lisa Trudell. These three rock stars are anxious and ready to meet our youngest Sandpipers. Please see the invite for the 3rd Grade Open House/Tours coming up on August 26th.

I'm thrilled about our 4th grade crew as well. We have two new faces joining us from around the district. This includes Hannah Bolden from Hilltop and Leslie Woodland from Long Beach. Amber Brown is not new to our building but will be part-time, Co-teaching with Leslie Woodland to create one, dynamic duo. Brand new to our area we have Patty Fey and Teresa Hyde who will round out this fabulous team. Fourth grade will be rocking!

In 5th grade, we have Tracie Lorimor, Crystal Bell, Ann Long and joining them will be Erin Porro. Fifth grade is an exciting year and there couldn't be a better team to support our students as they get ready to transition to middle school next year.

Our specialist teachers include Brian Vessey who will be teaching music and Michelle Chabot who will be teaching Physical Education. Clint Bergstrom and Amber Brown will continue to design instruction and build support for our students who receive Special Education Services.

These teachers, joined with the rest of our invaluable staff, are gearing up for a great school year and we look forward to getting to know you all.

### **Here We Come!**

We are excited to deliver some back-to-school goody bags to our students and families. You can expect to see your teacher pull-up at your residence sometime on Wednesday, August 25th for a quick delivery. Don't worry! If you aren't home, we'll just leave the surprise for our OPE Sandpiper on your doorstep.

### **Buses/Parent Transportation**

We have modified some of our processes to better suit the needs of our building. Please be aware of the following changes:

The front drive-thru will be closed for bus use only during start and end times.

If your student is a parent transport, the drop-off and pick-up location will be around the backside of the building. Just follow 256th Place toward the Timberland Library and then turn right onto "N" Place. We'll be greeting your students at 7:50am under the covered play area. Please do not drop your students off earlier. This presents a safety issue and we do not have staffing to supervise prior to this time. Please also make sure that your student is ready to exit the car as soon as you pull up so that we can continue to get the rest of the students into class on time.

If you arrive after 8am, you will be greeted with a sign that reminds you to drive around and check your student into the office. As usual, all of our exterior doors are locked so it is really important that late arrivals come to the office. Our policy also requires the parent or guardian to physically come sign their students in so that we have a record of check-in. These are all measures that we are taking to ensure our students' safety.

We will also be saying goodbye to our "parent pick-ups" in this same location under the covered play area. Dismissal will begin by 2:25 so you can expect your child to be ready and waiting by 2:30.

As usual, if you need to pick-up your student mid-day or take care of any business type details, just come to our office and we will be happy to assist you.

### **Tours of the school?**

In consideration of our current COVID situation, we will only be offering tours to our incoming 3rd graders, students and families that are new to our building, or who otherwise have needs that must be met prior to the start of school. If this pertains to you and you have not received a flyer in this mailing, please call our office. Masks will be mandatory for all building entries.

**COVID Protocols**

We will be strictly following our Health Department's Guidance. Please see the Symptom FlowChart for more information on the guidance. Masks are mandatory indoors, but not outdoors.

**Student Placement**

This is the exciting part! We have class lists all completed. Below you will find your student/s name and who their teacher will be for this year.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Warmest Regards,

Sheena Burke  
Principal  
Ocean Park Elementary