

August 6, 2019

Dear Bridgewater Staff:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I hope you are having a good summer. There are a few people that I would like to welcome to the Bridgewater family: Alicia Olson-Educational Assistant, Amanda Morelan-Educational Assistant, Kim Medin-Special Education Teacher, , and Ray Richmond-Reading Corp, Hannah Armstrong-Reading Corp. We still have some hiring to do to replace Brent Rauk ☺, a Special Ed Teacher, Math Coach, and three cafeteria supervisors.

Robin and Jessie have been busy working diligently to complete placement details and sort supplies for the beginning of the school year; their work is greatly appreciated! Jeff and his crew have the rooms cleaned and the building sparkling for the beginning of the year. The construction is well under way with the front entry blocked off for now; we will start the school year with a temporary entrance.

In addition to this letter, Mary Hanson will be sending out information for Workshop Week via email. I have emailed class lists to classroom teachers, and I will continue to send revisions as they take place. The Master Schedule and Conference Dates will also be sent. Please let me know if you have questions, or if you see any errors that can be corrected before school begins.

Many teachers have been busy over the summer attending professional development opportunities and working on details to make the school year go well for students. We have an outstanding staff at Bridgewater, and together we continue to make great things happen for students every day! I am very proud to work with such a great group of educators! I can't wait to start working with our learners this year!!

I had the honor to attend the National Elementary School Principals' Conferences this summer in Spokane, and was thrilled to work on my own professional development to become a better leader. I am focusing on learning ways to ensure that I show my appreciation for staff in the building along with supporting everyone in our journey to educate students. I attended a session with Sean Cain and Mike Laird, the authors of *The Fundamental 5*, and they spoke of the importance of teaching in the power zone, allowing the students to turn and talk to strengthen their learning, and closing the lesson to commit their learning to memory. I will share more with you throughout this fall.

Our start and end times this year are 7:35 a.m. - 3:35 p.m. with the student day from 8:20 a.m. - 3:20 p.m. PLC meetings will be held on Wednesday mornings from 7:35 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.

Ready, Set, Go Day will take place on Wednesday, August 28th. We will lay out all the plans during our staff meeting on Tuesday, August 27th. School pictures are scheduled for the same day as Ready, Set, Go Day on Wednesday, August 28th, and this information has been shared with parents. Staff pictures are taken the same day, so please be ready to smile for the camera. Staff will be allowed to take pictures first thing in the morning before the students.

Take care and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Nancy Antoine
Bridgewater Elementary Principal