

August 10, 2012

Dear Greenvale Park Staff,

With this letter I would like to officially begin our school year and welcome you once again to an exciting opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life.

Now starting my sixth year at Greenvale Park, I would also like to use this letter to tell you why I am so pleased to be part of this district. Northfield's schools are considered to be among the finest in the nation. They are routinely recognized for educational excellence. Such recognition doesn't occur by chance. It is the result of two things: motivated students and dedicated staff members. I believe that the real strength of the Northfield Public Schools lies in the collective talents of an exceptionally well-trained and dedicated teaching staff.

As a teacher, you have a very important job in an outstanding school system.

While I publicly proclaim the classroom teacher's role in the successful schooling of children, anyone who has worked in a public school knows that parents, volunteers, office support staff, child nutrition staff, teacher assistants, custodians, and bus drivers play vitally important roles in creating a school environment that is safe, clean, and conducive to student learning. In Northfield, all jobs are important and each of us contributes directly to the welfare of our children. Please keep this in mind.

We will soon be gathering together from 7:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on August 29, 2012 for our first staff meeting. ***We plan to have a pot luck breakfast so please plan on bringing a dish or drink of some sort to share with the staff. Call Donna Hall at 507-645-3501 to find out what we need.*** When you arrive you'll find new faces.

I would like to welcome:

1. Our new ESL teacher is Dana Sonnicksen. Dana comes to us from Albert Lea Public Schools.
2. This year, our new Speech Pathologist is Ann Burkhardt. Ann comes from the Goodhue County Education District.
3. Many of you know Heather Ryden. Heather was formerly one of the district curriculum coordinators. Heather is one of our two Rtl Specialists this year.
4. Jessica Jessen will be our AM/PM Kindergarten teacher. Jessica went to work at Longfellow School last year as one of its Hand-In-Hand Pre-School teachers.
5. Our newest Compañeros teacher is Lily Trelstad. Lily will be working with our Third Grade Team after a successful run with the Owatonna Public School system.
6. Our Fourth Grade Team welcomes Briana Bulfer. Briana was a member of the Faribault School District as a fourth grade teacher. Briana and her husband Bob will also soon be Greenvale Park parents☺

7. Stephanie Anderson comes to us as an Americorp Tutor. Stephanie is a recent graduate from the College of Saint Benedict with a degree in Elementary Education. Stephanie will be working as a Math Tutor with our fourth and fifth students.
8. Dean Sorenmann also comes to us as an Americorp Tutor. Dean has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Minnesota. Dean will be working as a K-3 Reading Tutor.
9. Our third Americorp Tutor is Amy Atkinson. Amy has a degree in Elementary Education. Amy will be working as a K-3 Reading Tutor.
10. Joe Amerman will be among us as a VISTA volunteer helping to support Accelerate Northfield.
11. Angie Callahan will be coming to us from Sibley School as our new Kid Ventures Site Lead.

As of the writing of this communiqué, I am presently waiting to hear from Gary Lewis about who will fill a 1.0 FTE Title I position that has yet to be assigned.

To assist you in finding your way around the rest of the Greenvale Park staff assignments, I am including a personnel roster as one of the on-line documents you will find on the district web page. I am also including the specialist schedule, Greenvale Park building map and the professional development calendar for the year. The professional development calendar has a detailed schedule of our fall pre-service activities. The building schedule will be created late August when I connect with our RTI specialists.

On August 17, 2012, I will be mailing placement letters to parents. Classroom teachers will also receive their class lists.

As our paths cross during the year, please stop and tell your colleagues and I about your teaching experiences and your students. It is important that we get to know each other and learn to work together. I trust that the coming school year will be a rewarding and memorable one for you and the children you teach.

I look forward to our first staff meeting on August 29, 2012!

David Craft  
Principal  
Greenvale Park