

August 9, 2013

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 seventh 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 26, 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 half-day kindergarten teacher is Tiffany Malecha. Tiffany is a Northfield High School graduate and graduated from Northwestern College.
2. Our second grade team has a fourth section this year which will be taught by Alyse Lindholm. Alyse is a graduate of St. Cloud State University and was a Title I teacher last year in the Cloquet Public Schools.
3. Anna Kelly comes to us as an Americorp Tutor. Anna has an AA degree from Rasmussen College. Anna will be working as a Math Tutor with our fourth and fifth students.
4. Samantha Glowacki also comes to us as an Americorp Tutor. Samantha will be working as a K-3 Reading Tutor.
5. Elizabeth Ryan will be our .5 Read 180 Teacher. Elizabeth taught third grade in the Anoka/Hennepin School District last year.
6. As many may have heard, Leslee Swenson has recently submitted her resignation with Northfield Public Schools for another position where she will be teaching within ten minutes of her home. We send our best wishes with Leslee. We will be interviewing for another member of the third grade team.

7. We welcome the new members to our special education team: Melissa Larson, school social worker; Jacque Ims, school psychologist; and Stephanie Carlson, resource room teacher.

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 sent out on August 12, 2013 via email.

On August 16, 2013, I will be mailing letters to parents regarding their child's classroom placement and information on the Ready, Set, Go date of August 27th. Classroom teachers will also receive their class lists along with their Ready, Set, Go day schedules.

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 do hope to see all Greenvale Park Staff (teachers, educational assistants, custodial, office support staff, child nutrition, KidVentures) at our brunch/first staff meeting on August 26th, 2013!

David Craft
Principal
Greenvale Park