



# Grace Farrar Cole Elementary School

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August 24, 2020

Dear Cole School Parents,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer with family and friends as the start of school will soon be upon us! We are so excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year with the continuation of our theme "Dream Big, Dare Greatly, and Shine Brightly at Cole School!" School reopens on **Wednesday, September 16th** for students in grades K-5. The AM session will attend school from 8:55-11:30 and the PM session will attend from 12:45-3:20.

### *New This Year:*

While we are beginning our second year with Schoology, our Learning Management System, this is the first year that we will be using it as the one location for all curriculum information and remote student learning at the elementary level. It is critical that parents/caregivers familiarize themselves with this platform to ensure a smooth transition to the remote learning environment. Please be sure to check out the Schoology Parent Training videos when they become available in September.

All large group gatherings (Curriculum Nights, Community Meetings, IEP/504 meetings, etc) will be held virtually this year. Please stay tuned for more information on each event as we move through the year. No visitors will be allowed into the building for any reason.

### *Arrival/Dismissal Procedures:*

Planning for this school year has certainly been challenging and has required a great deal of creative problem solving and out of the box thinking. One of our greatest challenges was determining a procedure for arrivals and dismissals that will occur twice a day that would be efficient and safe for everyone. We expect 80-100 pick ups at 11:30 and then again at 3:20. To accommodate this high volume of traffic, we will be utilizing the **front loop for school buses only** and the **back loop for all car arrivals and dismissals**. Please see the procedures also attached to the email.

### *Teacher and Session Assignments:*

**We are only able to share AM and PM session information today.** Classroom teacher assignments will not be available until Thursday. Families will receive an email on Thursday letting you know that you can log in to Aspen to see teacher assignments. Kindergarten families and families new to Cole School will receive directions for Aspen and password information on Thursday as well.

**Staffing:**

<p><b>Pre-Kindergarten</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Williamson</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Deptula</li> <li>- Mrs. Molly Fraser</li> <li>- Mrs. Blake</li> <li>- Mrs. Lewis</li> </ul>	<p><b>First Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Austin</li> <li>- Mrs. Barrett</li> <li>- Mrs. Bretsch</li> <li>- Mrs. Strauss</li> </ul>
<p><b>Second Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Donahue</li> <li>- Mrs. Evans</li> <li>- Mrs. Hayman</li> <li>- Mrs. Ryan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Third Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. McGowan (Marr)</li> <li>- Mr. Roberge</li> <li>- Mrs. Uhlman</li> <li>- Ms. Walker</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fourth Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Fitzgibbons</li> <li>- Mrs. Thompson</li> <li>- Mrs. Chiusolo</li> <li>- Mrs. Williamson</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fifth Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Boyd</li> <li>- Ms. Barlow</li> <li>- Mrs. Rantz</li> <li>- Ms. Reilly</li> </ul> <p><b>Remote Teachers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Kelly McGrath K</li> <li>- Mrs. Sara Giovanangelo Grade 1/2</li> <li>- Mrs. Caitlyn Fraser 2/3</li> <li>- Dr. Nicole Pedro 4/5</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specialists/Coordinators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Math - Ms. Pagnani</li> <li>- Literacy - Mrs. Fuller</li> <li>- Reading - Mrs. McGrath</li> </ul> <p><b>School Psychologist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Ciolkosz</li> </ul> <p><b>District Social Worker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Henderson</li> </ul> <p><b>English r Language Teacher</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Sturdy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specialists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Music - Mrs. Gagnon</li> <li>- Art - Mr. Menice</li> <li>- P.E. - Mr. Thornton</li> <li>- Instructional Technology - Mr. Tinker</li> <li>- Band - Dr. McCann/Mrs. Gagnon</li> <li>- Library/Media - Mrs. McGarry</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Educators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Walsh 2/3</li> <li>- Mrs. Ellis 4</li> <li>- Ms. Sciaraffa 3</li> <li>- Ms. Snow K/1</li> <li>- Ms. Grace K/5</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. MacDonald</li> <li>- Mrs. Coughlin</li> </ul> <p><b>School Counselor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Walsh</li> </ul>	<p><b>OT/PT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Dearborn</li> <li>- Mrs. Ryan</li> </ul> <p><b>School Nurse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nurse MacDougall</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building Based Aides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Carey</li> <li>- Mrs. Getto</li> </ul> <p><b>Duty Aides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. O'Driscoll</li> </ul>	<p><b>Special Education Aides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Morrissey</li> <li>- Mrs. Kenerson</li> <li>- Mrs. Maloney</li> <li>- Mrs. Stull</li> <li>- Mrs. Sullivan</li> </ul>	<p><b>School Secretary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Tracey</li> </ul> <p><b>Clerical Aide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Higgins</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Higgins</li> <li>- Mrs. McNulty</li> <li>- NEW</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporary Support Aide for Hybrid Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NEW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NEW</li> <li>- NEW</li> </ul>	<p><b>Custodial Staff:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Thayer</li> <li>- Mr. Papadopolous</li> <li>- Mr. Guerra</li> </ul>
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***New Staff:***

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Megan Barlow as our new 5th grade teacher. Ms. Barlow has been teaching 5th grade in South Carolina since 2016. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Skidmore in 2012 and her Master's degree from UNH in 2014. We are thrilled to have her join us.

Ms. Colleen Grace joins us this year as a long term substitute special education teacher while Mrs. Louchheim takes a year leave of absence. Prior to coming to Cole School, Ms. Grace taught third grade in Scituate. Ms. Grace worked as a building aide and a short term substitute at Cole last year. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Assumption College.

Please join me in recognizing the four Norwell teachers that will be teaching our Remote Learning Academy for those families that selected the remote option. Mrs. Kelly McGrath, Cole School's Reading Coordinator, will be teaching one half day section of remote kindergarten. Mrs. Sara Giovanangelo, Cole School teacher, will be teaching the 1/2 multigrade remote class. Mrs. Caitlyn Fraser, Vinal School teacher, will be teaching the 2/3 multigrade remote class. Dr. Nicole Pedro, Vinal School Literacy Coordinator, will be teaching the 4/5 multigrade remote class.

We will be filling open aide positions in the coming weeks. Many thanks to Mrs. Judy Boujoulian for her years of service to Cole School and the preschool classroom. We wish her all the best in her retirement. Many thanks to Mrs. Graceffa for her years of service as a duty aide. We hope to see her back at Cole in the near future. We're also sending good vibes to Mrs. Ann Ferzoco as she takes a leave of absence for a bit of time and we'll look forward to her return in the future.

***Bus Information:***

Bus routes are being carefully planned and students riding the buses are being carefully accounted for. With that being said, no student is allowed to ride a bus other than the one they've been assigned to without prior permission. As a reminder, students requiring pickup and drop off at daycare or employment in Norwell must seek approval from the principal with a written request; these arrangements must be permanent, prearranged, and the same for all days. There must be bus capacity and the bus stop must be a predefined stop for the request to be approved. Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this policy.

As a safety precaution, students will be assigned a seat on the bus for the ride to school and another seat for the ride home from school. Students will be seated one student per seat (siblings will be seated together). Bus windows will remain open for the duration of the bus ride so students

should be dressed appropriately for the weather. Masks must be worn at all times on the bus.

Bus numbers, route times, and bus seat information can be found on Aspen. We will alert families by email when that information becomes available. This information is not expected to be available until after Labor Day.

***Parent/Student Handbook:***

The Parent/Student Handbook for the elementary schools will be online at [www.norwellschools.org](http://www.norwellschools.org) before school starts. This year's handbook will include a specific section for COVID-19. Please take a moment to review it before school starts. You will be asked to sign off that you reviewed this handbook during the first week of school. It is an excellent resource for parents and will answer many of the questions you might have as we begin the year.

***Breakfast/Lunch Information:***

The monthly menu can be found on our district website under the Food Services tab. In addition, there is information regarding how to set up an online lunch account for your student. The online lunch account allows families the ability to deposit money into your child's account for lunch, milk or snacks. Breakfast/Lunch options will be "grab and go" this year since we will not be allowing eating at school at any time.

***School Supplies:***

We emailed a letter home in early August outlining needed school supplies for school and suggested school supplies for at home learning. Teachers may ask for additional supplies that are specific to that classroom or grade level in their welcome letter/email to families. Please let Mrs. Burns know if you need any support in gathering supplies.

***Communication Mode and Important Dates:***

We apologize for the length of this welcome back letter. We will send out grade specific emails and school wide notices through our student database system. A weekly newsletter, *The Cole Miners' Dig*, will be sent home via email and it is also posted on the Cole School website. **If you prefer paper communication rather than electronic communication, please let Mrs. Tracey know and she will send you home the paper version whenever necessary.**

Please mark your calendar with these important dates to start the year:

<b>August 27 &amp; 28</b>	Tours and Read Alouds at Cole School for Incoming kindergarten students and students new to Cole School in grades 1-5
<b>September 7</b>	Labor Day
<b>September 1-15</b>	No School - Professional Development Days
<b>September 16</b>	First Day of School for grades K-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● AM Session 8:55-11:30</li><li>● PM Session 12:45-3:20</li></ul>

<b>September 21</b>	<b>School Picture Day</b>
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Enjoy the remaining days of summer with your precious children. We look forward to seeing your children on September 16th!

Warmest regards,  
Eliza Burns &  
Principal

Heather Benner  
Asst. Principal

