



William Gould Vinal Elementary School

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August 22, 2021

Dear Vinal School Families:

Mrs. Egan and I 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! On behalf of the entire Vinal staff, we would like to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. The first day of school for students in grades 1-5 is on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021. Kindergarten orientation will take place on September 8th with the first day of kindergarten occurring on Thursday, September 9th.

As Mr. Keegan shared in a recent letter to families, tonight's school committee meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, August 25th in the Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. During the meeting we will discuss the reopening of Norwell Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. We will be discussing the most recent guidance and recommendations regarding COVID-19, and there will be opportunity for public comment on agenda items.

New This Year:

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to Team Vinal:

Diana DeCoste: School Secretary

Aubrey Glidden: 2nd Grade Teacher

Stephanie Sousa: Music Teacher

Carol Coletta: Instructional Technology Teacher

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures:

Students who walk to school or who are transported privately should not arrive prior to 8:45 a.m.

We are unable to provide supervision for children before 8:45a.m. Students will enter the building as they have in past years through the main doors. Students riding the bus will also enter as they have in past years through the bus lobby doors.

Recognition for Vinal's Finest:

We have been diligently working to prepare for the first day of school. A huge thank you goes out to our custodial staff for getting this building in pristine condition. Mr. Healey, Mr. Nault, Mr. Fraser, and the other district custodians worked tirelessly to clean and paint the Vinal School. I am truly impressed with their work ethic. The building looks amazing!

Staffing:

Our staffing for the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

William G. Vinal Elementary School
Staffing for 2021 - 2022 School Year

Pre-Kindergarten - Mrs. Flynn	Kindergarten - Mrs. Ryan - Mrs. Keefe - Mrs. Mulkerrin - Mrs. Lewis	First Grade - Mrs. Campbell - Mrs. Cattaneo - Mrs. Barbour - Mrs. Fraser
Second Grade - Mrs. Fitzgerald - Mrs. Harper - Ms. Harrington - Ms. Coggeshall - Ms. Glidden	Third Grade - Ms. O'Connor - Mrs. Schepman - Mrs. Hayes - Mrs. Carter	Fourth Grade - Mrs. Meade - Mrs. Doran - Ms. McQuade - Mr. Fennessy
Fifth Grade - Ms. Peckham - Mrs. Fitzgerald - Mrs. Abbott - Mrs. Story Principal - Dr. Thorsteinson Assistant Principal - Mrs. Egan	Specialists/Coordinators - Math - Mrs. Simmons - Reading - Mrs. Carpenito & Dr. Pedro School Psychologist - Mrs. LaSalle District Social Worker - Michelle Henderson	Specialists - Music - Ms. Sousa - Art - Ms. Holmes - P.E. - Mr. Leonard - Instructional Technology - Ms. Coletta - Band - Ms. Sousa - Library/Media - Ms. Howard
Special Educators - Mrs. Casagrande - Ms. McCarthy - Mrs. Weiler - Mrs. Johnson - Mrs. Blumberg-McSweeney	Speech/Language - Mrs. Chiano - Ms. O'Brien Guidance Counselor - Mr. Lewis	OT- Mrs. Kingsbury PT - Ms. Ryan School Nurse - Mrs. Isola Secretary - Mrs. DeCoste

Bus Information:

Bus routes have been carefully planned, accounting for all families that indicated they would be bus riders this year. Students will be required to wear a mask for the duration of the bus ride. 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.

Bus numbers and route times can be found on Aspen. We will alert families by email when that information becomes available. This information is expected to be available this week.

Parent/Student Handbook:

The Parent/Student Handbook will be online the last week of August at www.norwellschools.org. There have been changes to this year's Parent/Student Handbook. 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:

Breakfast will be available again this school year, and lunches will continue to be free to families. Additional information will come directly from our Food Services Department.

School Supplies:

A list of school supplies can be found on the Vinal School website. Teachers may ask for additional supplies that are specific to that classroom or grade level in their welcome letter/email to families. Please reach out to Vinal administration if you need any support in gathering supplies.

Communication Mode and Important Dates:

We will send out grade specific emails through our student database system and school-wide notices through the School Messenger system. A weekly newsletter, *The Vinal Voice*, will be sent home via email and it is also posted on the Vinal School website.

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

August 9-26	Kindergarten & New Family Visits
August 25	Family Clean-Up Day at Vinal (hosted by the Vinal PTO) * Sign-Up
September 1	Ice Cream Social: 4-5pm (on the playground blacktop)
September 8	First Day for grades 1-5 Kindergarten Orientation: Details to come
September 9	First Day of School for Kindergarten
September 13	Pre-K Open House *AM Pre-K: 9:15-10:00 *PM Pre-K: 10:15-11:00
September 14	Grades 1-5 Open House/Curriculum Night

	*1st-2nd: 5:00-5:45 *3rd-5th: 6:15-7:00
September 24	School Picture Day

Enjoy the remaining days of summer with your precious children, and let them know that all of us at Vinal cannot wait for their arrival!

Sincerely,

Nathan Thorsteinson, Principal

Catherine Egan, Assistant Principal