



August 16, 2021

Dear Cole School Families,

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 2021-2022 school year with the continuation of our theme “**Dream Big, Dare Greatly, and Shine Brightly at Cole School!**” School reopens on **Wednesday, September 8, 2021** for students in **grades 1-5** and for **kindergarten** students on **Thursday, September 9, 2021**.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Norwell Public Schools, in partnership with the community, is to provide excellence in education through a challenging and supportive environment, empowering students to be versatile, innovative, and responsible citizens who are prepared to navigate and contribute to a dynamic global society.

Cole School parents are critically important in helping us continue to move towards excellence. As such, it is important to know our mission so that you can reiterate those messages at home and join me in working towards this meaningful endeavor.

The mission of the Grace Farrar Cole School is to promote curiosity, creativity, and opportunities in learning as we strive for excellence. Our core values include promoting appreciation of individual learning styles, skills, and talents to maximize learning and growth; treating all people with dignity, kindness, and respect; and fostering intellectual curiosity and risk taking through creative problem solving.

Recognition for Cole's Finest:

Here at Cole School, we have been diligently working to prepare for the first day of school on September 8th. A huge thank you goes out to our custodial staff for getting this building in pristine condition. Mr. Thayer and the other district custodians worked tirelessly to clean every nook and cranny of Cole School. It looks amazing! Our school secretary extraordinaire, Mrs. Tracey, has put in countless hours inputting data into our system, registering students, ordering materials, and getting Cole School organized so that no stone is left unturned before opening day. Our assistant principal, Mrs. Benner, has spent the summer organizing curriculum materials, running summer programs, and meeting with the leadership team to plan for the months and year ahead. The exceptionally talented teachers have engaged in professional learning and planning for the year of learning ahead. It is going to be a wonderful year at Cole School thanks in great part to the entire staff that works together to make Cole School an amazingly wonderful place!

New Staff:

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Kevin Rodis as our new fourth grade teacher. Mr. Rodis will be taking Mrs. Jessica Chiusolo's class as Mrs. Chiusolo recently resigned to care for her family. We are also in the midst of hiring a new Instructional Technology teacher as Mr. Tinker has resigned to take on a leadership position in Pembroke. We wish both Mr. Tinker and Mrs. Chiusolo all the best!

Staffing:

We have completed all of the hiring to begin the school year. Our staffing for the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten - Mrs. Williamson	Kindergarten - Mrs. Deptula - Mrs. Fraser - Mrs. Blake - Mrs. Giovanangelo	First Grade - Mrs. Austin - Mrs. Barrett - Mrs. Bretsch - Mrs. Strauss - Ms. Mason
Second Grade - Mrs. Donahue - Mrs. Evans - Mrs. Hayman - Mrs. Ryan	Third Grade - Mrs. McGowan - Mr. Roberge - Mrs. Uhlman - Mrs. Orleans	Fourth Grade - Mrs. Fitzgibbons - Mrs. Thompson - Mr. Rodis - Mrs. Williamson
Fifth Grade - Ms. Boyd - Ms. Barlow - Mrs. Rantz - Ms. Reilly Kindergarten Aides - Mrs. Getto - Mrs. Maloney	Specialists/Coordinators - Math - Ms. Pagnani - Reading - Mrs. McGrath - Literacy - Mrs. Fuller School Psychologist - Dr. Ciolkosz Social Worker - Mrs. Henderson English Language Teacher - Mrs. Sturdy	Specialists - Music - Mrs. Gagnon - Art - Mr. Menice - P.E. - Mr. Thornton - Instructional Technology - TBD - Band - Mrs. Gagnon - Library/Media - Mrs. McGarry
Special Educators - Mrs. Crossen - Mrs. Ellis - Ms. Sciaraffa - Mrs. Eldridge - Mrs. Louchheim	Speech/Language - Mrs. MacDonald - Mrs. Coughlin School Counselor - Mrs. Walsh	OT/PT - Ms. Dearborn - Mrs. Ryan School Nurse - Nurse MacDougall
Building Based Aides - Mrs. Carey - Mr. Tarr Duty Aides - Mrs. Graceffa - Ms. Dery - Mrs. Higgins - TBD	Special Education Aides - TBD - Mrs. O'Driscoll - Mrs. Ferzoco - Mrs. Kenerson - Mrs. McNulty - Mrs. Stull - Mrs. Sullivan	School Secretary - Mrs. Tracey Clerical Aide - Mrs. Higgins Custodial Staff: - Mr. Thayer - Mr. Papadopolous - Mr. Balzano

Schoology:

We will continue to use Schoology, a learning management system, as the one location for all curriculum information and archived weekly newsletters. It is critical that parents/caregivers familiarize themselves with this platform to ensure a smooth transition to the remote learning environment.

Bus Information:

Students must be masked for the entire duration of the bus ride. Windows will be open (regardless of weather) at least two “clicks” to allow sufficient ventilation. Please be sure students are masked and dressed appropriately for the bus ride to and from school.

Bus routes were carefully planned and students riding the buses were 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 from the transportation department. 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.

Car Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:

We will continue to have car arrival and dismissal around the back of the school this year. Please post your child’s last name in the passenger window in bold and large writing. All students should be dressed appropriately for the weather since all students being picked up from school will be outside and dismissal procedures can take 10-12 minutes to complete. Complete procedures for arrival and dismissal can be found on Cole School’s homepage and [here](#).

Parent/Student Handbook:

The Parent/Student Handbook for the elementary schools will be online at www.norwellschools.org the last week of August. 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.

I will take a minute to highlight a few of this year’s changes to the Parent/Student Handbook. Please take note of the suggested flow of communication if you feel that there is a concern that needs to be addressed. At the elementary level, it is always best to communicate with your child’s classroom teacher. If you feel that you need additional support, depending on the situation, you can also contact the school counselor, school psychologist, or school nurse.

School Calendar:

The school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year can be found on the website and [here](#).

Lunch Information:

Student lunches will continue to be provided free of charge for all children. Bringing lunch from home is always an option as well. This year, students will select either the hot lunch option, cold lunch option, or lunch from home in their classrooms. Students in grades 2-5 will need to memorize their 4 digit pin number (can be found on Aspen) to check out of the cafeteria. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 will be supported with their 4 digit number until they have it memorized (with a bracelet, necklace, laminated card, etc). Please review the lunch options with your child on a daily basis. It’s always a good idea to hang the lunch menu (found on the website under the Lunch button) in a highly visible location at home.

School Supplies:

A list of school supplies that have been purchased by the district can be found on Cole School’s [homepage](#). Teachers may request additional supplies that can be found on the teacher’s website and/or sent home in the teacher’s summer letter.

Communication Mode and Important Dates:

We apologize for the length of this welcome back letter. Fortunately, the majority of our communication from this point on will be electronic. 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 Cole Miner's 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.**

Visiting Cole School:

In accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidance, we are strongly encouraging all individuals visiting our school to wear a mask while indoors, especially those that are not fully vaccinated. Official policies regarding masking, quarantining, and close contact procedures will be determined on August 30th and communicated prior to the first day of school.

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

August 26	New Family Tour 5:00-6:10 pm - all new families and all kindergarten families invited to attend - more information provided by email to specific families
September 6	No School – Labor Day
September 1, 2, 3, 7	No School - Professional Development Days
September 7	Facebook Live Read Aloud with Mrs. Burns on Cole PTO Facebook page 6:30 pm
September 8	First Day of School for grades 1-5. Students dismissed at 3:20 pm
September 8	Kindergarten Open House 9:30-11:30 am - more details to follow
September 9	Cole School Boohoo/Yahoo PTO Meeting 9:15 am - more details to follow
September 9	First Day of School for Kindergarten
September 14	Grades 1-2 Curriculum Night 5:00-5:45 pm - more details to follow
September 14	Grades 3-5 Curriculum Night 6:15-7:00 pm - more details to follow

Enjoy the remaining days of summer with your precious children. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Warmest regards,
Eliza Burns & Heather Benner
Principal Asst. Principal