

Metacomet Elementary School

185 School Street
Bloomfield, CT 06002
(860) 286-2660
pguzzo@blmfld.org

AUGUST 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your family are well at this time and looking forward to the start of our school year. We are looking forward to having your child start school at Metacomet Elementary School! School starts on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 from 8:35 am to 3:25 pm. I wanted to send this letter out early so that you will know our expectations for your child before school begins. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 860-769-6796 or email me at pguzzo@blmfld.org. If you would like more information about our school, please go to the following link to see our Metacomet Parent Handbook: https://mes.bloomfieldschools.org/parent_resources/about_metacomet.

We have a lot of work to do both academically and socially this school year to get our students ready for learning. We are implementing the same reading (Open Court) and math (Bridges/Number Corners) programs that Laurel has used with your child. Our teachers will continue to work on imbedding social and culturally relevant lessons for our students.

SCHOOL HOURS:

Students may arrive at **8:25 am**. Please do not drop off your children earlier than 8:25 am- we do not have anyone to watch them. If you need to get to work earlier, you may enroll your child in the Extension Program for a small fee. Please call 860-769-4225 if you are interested.

The school day ends at **3:25 pm** for students. We will have a free enrichment, afterschool program that is open till 5:00 pm. More details of our Boys and Girls Club Program will be coming.

ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL:

If your child wants a breakfast, he/she may pick up a breakfast bag from the cafeteria and go to class and eat. Half of our students will go to the gym and wait for their teacher to pick them up at 8:45 am. The other half of our students will walk to their classrooms and wait in the hall (next to their classroom) till 8:45 am and then be allowed into the room to eat their breakfast and begin their day.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL:

Parents who come to pick students up from school are encouraged to pick up at 3:25 pm. All students who are "Picked Up" will report to the cafeteria. Parents must drive up to the cafeteria door, stay in the car and a staff member will have your child brought to you. You must remember to bring a picture ID and give your name. If you are having another person pick up your child, you must include their name on the emergency cards which are enclosed with this letter. No one will be permitted to pick up your child unless their name is included on the emergency card.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

We do have a school uniform policy. Our students must wear pants, skirts or jumpers that are blue, black or khaki. We do not allow jeans or pants with holes. Skirts must be no higher than your child's knees. Students must wear a collared polo shirt or blouse that is navy blue or white. The shirts must be tucked into the pants or skirt. We would like all of our students to wear sneakers daily. Since students do go outside for recess most days, sneakers are great shoes for them to run around in. Please- no open toe shoes like flip flops. We know that Crocs are very popular but many students get hurt running in them. Please consider having your child wear sneakers.

Technology is a big part of our lives with **cell phones and digital watches**. We do not allow cell phones or digital (Apple) watches in our school. If your child must have a phone or smart watch, please let your child's teacher know. The phone and watch must stay in the backpack during school and bus hours. The family assumes responsibility if they are lost or stolen.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Please do not go out and purchase lots of school supplies. All students will receive a school assignment book. Your child's teacher will let you know whether additional supplies are needed during the first week of school. Items that you may consider purchasing are:

A backpack

A lunchbox

Pencils, markers, crayons, erasers (for use at home)

Class Lists:

We know you are anxious to know who your child's teacher will be and who will be in his/her class. Please see the attached list in this packet. We have spent a great deal of time creating these lists. We do not take requests for specific teachers but if your child must be away from another child or you would like to speak to me about your child's learning needs, you may give me a call.

SNACKS AND PARTIES

- Due to the allergies of many of our students, we will not allow outside food to be shared with our students. This includes cupcakes, cake, cookies, and any other food for parties. Please contact your child's teacher for alternate ways to celebrate your child's birthday.
- Please have your child bring in a healthy snack each day (pretzels, fruit, yogurt, granola bars...).
- All of our classrooms are nut-free areas.
- Students may drink only water in the classrooms. Students may drink juice during lunch in the cafeteria
- Gum, soda, sugar drinks (Coolatta's), candy and glass bottles are not allowed in our school

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR SCHOOL DAY

The school day will begin with a 20-30 minute **Morning Meeting** in each classroom. In the Morning Meeting, students will greet one another, have a chance to share something about themselves, work together as a team on a group activity and understand the expectations for the day. Below are three reasons why we will hold Morning Meetings each day:

1. It builds a community by helping students feel a sense of significance, belonging and engagement
2. It will give students daily practice in the social skills needed for academic learning throughout the day
3. It will create a climate of trust and respect which enables children to feel safe enough to take the risks necessary for learning

Our literacy program is called **“Open Court”**. All of our lessons are divided into three parts:

1. PART 1: **Foundational Skills** focus on phonics and decoding as well as word analysis (30 minutes a day)
2. PART 2: **Reading and Responding** addresses comprehension, vocabulary, fluency and inquiry (45-60 minutes per day)
3. PART 3: **Language Arts** contains the writing process, penmanship, grammar (usage and the mechanics) and spelling (30 minutes a day)

Our **Science and Social Studies** lessons will be included during our “Open Court” literacy block. The themes for our Grade 3 classes are: Respect; Extreme Weather; A Changing Nation; Animals and their Habitats; Government at Work and Art on the Move. The Grade 4 themes are: Making a Difference; Science Fair; Our Heritage, Our History; Adaptations in Action; National Treasures; and Literacy Meets Art.

In mathematics, we are using **“Bridges in Mathematics”**, a Kindergarten through Grade 5 program that will help us meet the new standards and make math meaningful and exciting. In third grade, our students will:

1. Multiply numbers from 0-10 with fluency
2. Multiply with numbers greater than 10
3. Add and subtract with numbers up to 1000
4. Work with fractions (fractions with a 1 in the numerator like $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$) to add and subtract fractions
5. Explore division

Our Grade Four students will:

1. Find factors and multiples of different numbers
2. Compare fractions and break fractions into smaller parts
3. Compare decimal numbers and find decimal and fraction equivalents
4. Develop efficient strategies for multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers
5. Calculate area and work with volume
6. Measure and draw angles using protractors

One thing that we have learned from the pandemic is just how important it is for us to work together. Our families are our greatest resource and we thank you for all your support. If there is anything that concerns you, please give me a call at the school.

It is my honor to work in Bloomfield! The families, students and staff here are amazing. We would like to get the families together and meet other families in our school. We have scheduled a Chuck E. Cheese Night on Thursday, September 7 from 4:00-8:00 pm at 82 Buckland Street in Manchester, CT. I hope you can attend. I look forward to meeting you during our Open House on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 and at our first PTO Meeting- Thursday, September 21 and.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Guzzo
Principal
Metacommet Elementary School