

September 2nd, 2019



Dear Bell Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! On behalf of the Bell staff, I want to tell you how excited we are to welcome our students and families back for another school year this coming week. As you saw at Meet & Greet, the classrooms are colorful and welcoming, and our staff are eager to get this school year under way!

Bell teachers work intentionally and collaboratively to accelerate student achievement. Our staff is committed to creating support systems to meet the academic and social needs of each child. We are studying and putting into place responsive instructional strategies based on “best practices” that increase student learning. Best practices include boosting students’ active engagement in their learning, and differentiating instruction based on students’ readiness, skill level, and learning goals. This year we implement a new Science curriculum called the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

We continue to register new students and currently have approximately 390. I hope that your child returns home next week excited and eager to tell you all about their first day of school. Our teaching staff is committed to ensuring that your child develops and continues to feel joy in learning new content and skills. We want them to feel connected, safe, respected, challenged and successful as both learners and people.

In the “First Day” packet that you are receiving on the first day are many forms which need to be filled out completely and returned to school. Please remember that you will need to fill out forms for **EACH** child that attends our school. The information on the forms will be used so that we can contact you, know who to call if your child becomes ill and so that we have your correct information. Please return the forms as soon as possible. Bell’s **Student/Parent Handbook** information is also going home and I ask that you go over the information with your child and return the signature page once you have finished reviewing. If you need a hard copy in favor of the PDF on our website, please contact your teacher or the office and we can send one home. I would also like to encourage you to join our PTSA, which supports our school in so many ways. Our first PTSA sponsored event is the Back to School picnic on September 19th from 6-8pm.

I look forward to working together to make this a very successful year for your child. I ask for your support by making sure your child gets to school on time each and every day and that students only miss school for illness or emergency. Please schedule vacations during times when we are not in school- winter and spring break or three day weekends. The school day is from **9:20 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.** On Wednesdays school ends at 2:20 p.m. Additional ways for you to support your student include:

- As a family spending 20-30 minutes reading with your child each night will help reinforce the literacy skills being taught during the school day.

- Take a few minutes each night and engage your student in conversation about what they learned at school that day.
- Set aside time in the evening to complete homework.
- Limit screen time including television and other game devices.
- Attend Curriculum Night on September 12th.
- Attached, please find a line up map to help orient you for tomorrow too.

In partnership,

Brian Story
Principal