

# MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890

KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL

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WEBSITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh>



**FAIRFIELD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Families:

Welcome back Mill Hill families and a sincere welcome to any new families to Mill Hill! I'm glad to report that we are again off to an outstanding start to the new school year. The children are excited about school and I'm very pleased with our beginning. I would like to thank all of the people who helped to make our beginning so successful - our teachers, custodians, secretaries, support staff, and our PTA!

Your children are wonderful and delightful kids. They are our main mission. I will tell you that I am very proud of our school. I am also very proud to be associated with the people in this building. They truly are top notch. They have gone above and beyond to make this such a successful opening, and they continue to dedicate themselves to the overall growth and well-being of your children day in and day out. They are true professionals in every sense of the word.

On Wednesday, September 14, you will have the opportunity to join us for our Open House, meet the teachers, and familiarize yourself with curriculum. As always, I am available to answer any additional questions you may have at any point throughout the school year. Please take the time to visit our website as well as the Mill Hill PTA website. If you are on Twitter, find me @PrincipalChase or follow the *Mill Hill Hawks Southport* site on Facebook, or simply stay tuned to all messages coming from Infinite Campus.

I wanted to take the time to introduce three important new staff members at Mill Hill this year. I have had the luxury of coming across three tremendous educators who will be helping us out during a few leaves of absence this year.

Nicole Vazquez is a fourth grade long-term substitute in 4M.

*I grew up in the Fairfield community, and am grateful for the opportunity to share my experience with my students. I gained a love of teaching from my involvement in the Missoula Children's Theatre Program in Fairfield at the local university, where I now serve as Camp Coordinator. I received my Bachelor's degree in Writing, Literature, and Publishing from Emerson College in Boston in 2012. Following my passion for education, I pursued my Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University. While at Sacred Heart, I completed my Graduate Internship and Student Teaching Program at McKinley Elementary School. As a student teacher, I gained experience in a fourth grade classroom with my mentor teacher. Most recently, I was a Building Substitute and Teaching Assistant in the second grade at Jennings Elementary School in Fairfield.*

Joseph Corkery will be a fourth grade long-term substitute in 4P.

*I grew up in Stratford, Connecticut and graduated from Bunnell High School. There I did a little of everything including marching band, theater, track, and was even the captain of the wrestling team my senior year. I completed my undergraduate degree at UConn, and went on to complete my Masters of Education at Sacred Heart University. I have been very lucky to be able to experience a variety of educational settings in various*



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*towns already. I was a building intern in the Milford School District at Mathewson Elementary for a year, completed my student teaching in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at Washington Elementary School in West Haven, CT, and was a building substitute at North Stratfield Elementary in Fairfield, CT. I am so excited and grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the Mill Hill family and working with all the wonderful parents, students, and other faculty to make this year exceptional.*

Gina Marcheschi will be a first grade long-term substitute in 1E.

*I am excited to be a part of the Mill Hill community! I am originally from Long Island, where I lived with my parents and my younger sister Gabriella. After High School, I received a scholarship to the University of Bridgeport to be on the gymnastics team. I was very fortunate to be on the team that won six consecutive National Championships! It was here that I double majored in Psychology and Human Services. I also attended graduate school at UB where I received my Masters Degree in Elementary Education and became a certified elementary teacher. I have been lucky enough to be a part of the Fairfield Public School District for a few years now. I was previously an intern at Dwight Elementary School in 2014-2015, and then I student taught in first grade at Jennings Elementary School. Following student teaching, I was the building substitute which led to a long-term substitute position in a third grade class. I am excited to take over for Mrs. Ehret when she goes out on maternity leave. My experience in Fairfield thus far has afforded me the opportunity to learn and implement the Fairfield curriculum. I feel well prepared to teach in the Fairfield School District and ready for the opportunity to watch children grow in the classroom.*

Thank you, parents, families, for all you do to support our school and help to make it the wonderful place it is for our children. The connection between school and home is invaluable to the overall success and well-being of our children, and it is well celebrated in our deserving honor of being named a National PTA School of Excellence. I so greatly appreciate your support and I look forward to another wonderful year at Mill Hill!

I wanted to end with what is my vision for our school...

*We at Mill Hill strive to be champions of education, champions of children. We believe that we can reach higher levels of achievement through a constant cycle of reflection that lends itself to close examination and analysis of past and current practice to lead to continuous improvement. Each child is an individual in their own right and thus growth is commensurate to their individual needs and abilities.*

*More specifically, we collaborate in teams throughout our entire organization. We believe that inherent in the power of collaboration is that collectively we are smarter than any individual in the collective. Through this philosophy we will improve the capacity of administrators, teachers, and other key stakeholders to improve both the overall learning environment for our students and in turn their academic achievement and personal growth.*



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*We are constantly examining student achievement outcomes. This close examination leads to focused reflection to identify instructional practice that produces positive student achievement outcomes for, as we know, there can exist instructional practice that is viewed as effective, but does not produce the desired results. In short, if we are responsive to student learner outcomes, we will improve student achievement.*

*This structure has clearly defined components that allow for a system of checks and balances that illuminate areas to both replicate and revise. This clear vision, communication of this vision, along with a transparent and well-articulated structure that is aligned in its documentation, tasks, and functioning throughout the organization is the backbone of our success. We strive to nurture the growth of the whole child. We will always work to follow our motto; "Mill Hill is a Home for the Mind and Heart." Keep your heart in mind.*

Kevin Chase  
Principal



**SCHOOL OF  
EXCELLENCE**

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