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Deborah Jackson, Principal

August, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. It is going to be a great year and we are looking forward to the return of our students and families. We hope you and your children had a wonderful summer and know you will enjoy the many great activities we have planned for the upcoming school year. Our "School Opening" packets are posted on our school website as they become available to us- [www.fairfieldschools.org/schools/ns](http://www.fairfieldschools.org/schools/ns)). Please make sure to check this often for current information and updates.

It has been a very busy summer at NSS and we continue to work together to make sure the building is ready for the first day of school. A special thank you to our wonderful PTA for the many school gifts such as classroom libraries, furniture for our Library Media Center, specialized student seating for children in K-5, and a refreshed faculty room. Another thanks to the summer custodial team for their hard work as they prepared for the arrival of our students. Teachers have already been in this summer to prepare their classrooms for students.

As you prepare for the upcoming school year, please make sure to visit your Infinite Campus (I.C.) site and make sure all your information is current. This is essential so that you can receive important information (i.e. classroom placement; progress reports) throughout the school year. We will be releasing student placements through I.C. after 1:00 on Thursday, 8/23/18.

We have several faculty changes to announce for the upcoming school year. It is always bittersweet to say good-bye to our fine faculty members while welcoming great additions to our school team. I know you will join me in welcoming our new faculty members to NSS – they have all visited already and look forward to meeting their students and families. I know you will also join me in wishing Mrs. Jennifer Marko the best of luck as she moves to FWMS as their part-time Language Arts Specialist. We also wish Mrs. Andrea Clark the best of luck as she moves to a new district. Congratulations to Ms. Kayla Horne who became Mrs. Kayla Onderko (yes she married former grade 5 teacher – Mr. Matthew Onderko). Several teachers have moved to new grade levels within our school. Here's a list of our teachers with highlighted changes for the 2018-2019 year:

Elementary Program Facilitator "EPF" – **Mrs. Mary Dolan Collette**

Grade K – Mrs. Paula Healey, Mrs. Elizabeth Keresey, Ms. Nicole Monahan

Grade 1 – **Ms. Joanne Belko**, Mrs. Nicole Hackney, Mrs. Kayla **Onderko**

Grade 2 – Mrs. Karen Myers, Mrs. Kristin Rollinson, Mrs. Kathleen Kane

Grade 3 – Mrs. Cheryl Banner, Ms. Kristen Mancini, **Mr. Harry Bartlett**

Grade 4 – **Ms. Inara Coleman**, Ms. Gina Marcheschi, Mr. Steve Porricelli

Grade 5 – Mrs. Jessica Furey, Mrs. Muriel Dushok, **Mr. Robert Gillen**, **Mr. Matthew Wendin**

Spanish – **Ms. Angelina McClain**

**Gifted/Steam – Mr. Ryan Carroll**

Music – Ms. Ashley Zadravec

Art – Mrs. Brittany Mansi

P.E. – Ms. Kimberly Rasmussen

Part-time Physical Education Teacher – Mr. Robert Bove (working with Ms. Rasmussen)

Orchestra Teacher – Ms. Jen Ficks

Band – Ms. Patricia DiMeglio

Library Media Specialist – **Mr. Greg Foschi**

Intern – **Ms. Emily Spoto**

**Mrs. Jen Titrud** – is returning to NSS as a member of our paraprofessional team

**Mrs. Collette** is very excited to join our NSS faculty in this newly created position. Mrs. Collette had prior experiences at Jennings School and most recently served in the role of Language Arts Specialist at McKinley. She is a certified administrator as well and looks forward

to her new role. **Ms. Belko** is joining the first grade team now that Mrs. Jean Cooper has retired. She has worked for FPS for several years as an intern, long term substitute, and most recently as a teacher for the Summer Literacy Boost Program at Stratfield. **Mr. Bartlett** has taught at FPS for many years – most recently at Holland Hill School. He is replacing Mr. Wendin who is moving to grade 5. **Ms. Coleman** was formerly a fourth grade teacher at Osborn Hill School and she is returning to FPS after working at a charter school in New York City. **Mr. Gillen** is very excited to return to the grade 5 teaching team after serving in the role as Gifted/Instructional Improvement Teacher. **Ms. McClain** has taught Spanish at FPS for many years and we share her with Osborn Hill. **Mr. Carroll** comes to us from Dwight where he was a fifth grade teacher and he is looking forward to working with students and staff as we implement STEAM lessons. STEAM stands for “Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. He will implement collaborative lessons once per 6 day cycle in grades 3, 4, and 5. **Mr. Foschi** is thrilled to be taking the lead as our Library Media Specialist. He most recently served in this role as a long-term substitute at Riverfield.

Please make sure you read through all “Welcome Back” information posted on the NSS website as this includes some important information that will help make your child’s transition back to school a positive one. We update this site as information becomes available to us. Here’s a look ahead at some important dates to remember:

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| <b>Class Placements Released “IC”</b>   | <b>Thursday, 8/23 – after 1:00 pm</b>   |
| <b>Welcome Playdate for new families</b><br><i>Hosted by the NSS PTA</i>  | <b>Monday, 8/27 – 5pm to 7pm – NSS Blacktop</b>   |
| <b>Kindergarten Visitation</b><br>*This is an opportunity to meet your teacher and visit the classroom.   | <b>Wednesday, 8/29 - 11:30-12:00</b>  |
| <b>Grades 1-5 Visitation</b><br>*Any student can stop in to meet their teacher and visit the classroom.   | <b>Wednesday, 8/29 - 11:30-12:15</b>  |
| <i>The day before school is a very busy time for teachers and we ask that you respect the time frames listed to allow the staff ample time to finish preparing for the first day of school.</i>       |   |
| <b>First Day of School</b>  | <b>Thursday, 8/30 - 8:55-3:30</b>   |
| <b>PTA Coffee (hosted by NSS PTA)</b><br>*This is an opportunity for parents to enjoy coffee together on the first day of school. Opportunities to sign up for PTA committees will also be available. | <b>Thursday, 8/30 - 9:15-10:00 APR</b>  |
| <b>Welcome Back Ice Cream Social</b><br><i>Hosted by the NSS PTA</i>  | <b>Friday, 9/7 – 6-8pm – NSS Blacktop</b>   |
| <b>Open House</b>   | <b>Thursday, 9/13</b><br><b>6:15-7:00 Grs. 3-5</b><br><b>7:00-7:15 Welcome</b><br><b>7:15-8:00 Grs. K-2</b> |

**Infinite Campus (IC)** – is utilized to communicate with you in a timely fashion. You can access information about IC on the Fairfield website [www.fairfieldschools.org](http://www.fairfieldschools.org).

[NSS website – www.fairfieldschools.org/ns/](http://www.fairfieldschools.org/ns/)

[PTA website - www.nsspta.org](http://www.nsspta.org)

We look forward to seeing you and the children soon!

Sincerely,  
Deborah K. Jackson  
Principal