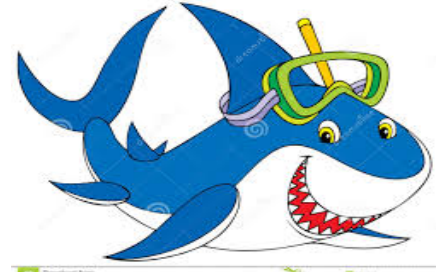


Roger Sherman Elementary School

250 Fern Street

Fairfield, CT 06824

Phone (203) 255-8330



Source: Worldartsme.com

Dr. Ian M. Banner, Principal

Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body – Seneca

August 21, 2018

Dear Parents and Families:

We want to welcome you all to a new school year, especially our kindergarten friends who are joining the RSS family for the first time. We are very excited to be seeing you soon and we can't wait to begin this new journey. As such, we wanted to inform you of some important information pertaining to the new school year, as well as recent hires and those new members who will be joining the RSS family of staff.

I first would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to Mr. Ceste and Mr. Pena for preparing the building. Their work this summer has been unmatched and simply put: Without them, any and all other work to educate our children would be impossible. Also, an equally huge thank you to Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Kerrigan, and many of the other RSS staff members who have dedicated their time to helping me answer questions I didn't know that I had, and even while on their vacation. To me, this speaks directly to the wonderful people we are blessed to call family here at Sherman.

Sherman Insight and Perspectives

Please be aware that the open-ended response questionnaire that I shared in my previous letter is still open for you to offer your thoughts and insights on Sherman, and you can still access it using the following Google link: <https://goo.gl/forms/YJRzV4r06k5hE6Re2>. If you haven't done so already, please feel free to take advantage of this, as I have thoroughly enjoyed reading your comments and thoughts about our wonderful school and community, as well as your concerns. Additionally, while I still welcome the opportunities to meet and chat with you in person, my availability will now be greatly reduced due to the beginning of the school year and staff returning on Monday, August 27. However, if you have any concern at all, please don't hesitate to contact me, and let's determine the best and most efficient way to proceed.

Class Placements

Class lists will be available for viewing in Infinite Campus (IC) sometime after mid-day on Thursday, August 23. If you require help accessing IC, please email REGHELP@fairfieldschools.org.

Please make note that placements are final, as the teachers have already begun preparing for the start of the school year. It is also important to note that a great deal of thought, time and effort was dedicated to balancing the groups in every grade level back in June to allow every student to be able to appropriately access the curriculum and be able to function as reasonably independently as possible and comparable to his/her peer group. This means that the discussions that you may have had with last year's teachers and/or Mrs. Roxbee will have been honored during those placement meetings to maximum extent possible, which occurred long before I took the helm. Thus, I feel confident that the teams when organizing the placements did so using all of the necessary information and insight available to them and to the maximum extent possible.

School Supplies

There are no school supply lists, and as such, the school will provide your child with everything they need to make for a successful start to the year. However, there may be a few minor items—nothing of which will be critical—that each grade level requests that you acquire, which will be communicated in the teacher letters. These will be sent towards the end of this week and into next.

Important Events and Dates

Kindergarten orientation and students new to Sherman August 29 from 9:00 – 10:00	Kindergarten students should enter the building at the main office and meet the teachers in the All Purpose Room (APR). Additional details will be provided at that time, and the teachers will then escort the students and parents directly to the classrooms. All other students new to Sherman should report to the Library Media Center (LMC) by entering the building by the main office, and will be met there by a member of staff.
First day of school NB. <i>Tears and Cheers</i> will take place in the APR at 9:00.	The first day of school is Thursday, August 30, and staff will be out to meet and escort the younger ones to their classrooms. The first bell rings at 8:45, and the second bell rings at 8:55, which is when all students are expected to be in their classrooms. Students will be dismissed at 3:30.
Back-to-School Night/Open House	Wednesday, September 5 beginning at 6:00 – 6:45pm for grades K-2. My opening remarks for grades 3-5 will begin at 6:45, and class visits will follow from 7:15 – 8:00pm.
Picture Day	Thursday, September 13 More specific information will follow
Back-to-School Picnic	September 14 on the Blacktop at the rear of the school from 5:00 – 7:00pm.

Staff Updates

This year, we will welcome a few new staff members to the Sherman family, and these are listed below.

Marion Richard Grade 2	This is Marion's 21st year teaching in the Fairfield Public Schools. She comes from Riverfield Elementary School where she taught third grade for one year, fourth grade for five, and second grade for fourteen years. Marion is excited to be joining Roger Sherman.
Marie Kass Grade 5	Marie (Ekstrom) Kass will be joining our fifth-grade team this year, and she has been a Fairfield teacher for many years. Before being an Instructional Improvement Teacher (IIT) and Gifted and Talented (G&T) teacher most recently at Stratfield School, she has enjoyed being a classroom teacher in numerous grades including Kindergarten, second grade, fourth grade and fifth grade at Dwight. Needless to say, she's very excited to be joining the fifth-grade team here at Sherman.
Allison Rock-Studer	Allison has 14 years of experience teaching music, 13

Music	of which were devoted to teaching K-5 general music and chorus in Milford, and she is very excited to join Roger Sherman Elementary School, and to teach the students how to be creative, critical thinkers, and independent musicians.
Janine Corona	Janine is our new nurse, and enjoying her 35 th year in nursing. Her previous experiences include Working at Montefiore Hospital and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, to name only a few. She has also enjoyed 12 years in the Fairfield Public Schools at Dwight and McKinley.

Additionally, we will be joined by the following staff members:

- Sheila Ferrera (STEAM and Gifted and Talented teacher)
- Marta Mwambulukutu (Spanish teacher)
- Susan Welch (Spanish teacher)
- Scott Kangas (intern from the University of Bridgeport).

In previous years, we have enjoyed having Ms. Davis as the Instructional Improvement Teacher (IIT) whose role was varied and included supporting students in numerous ways. Her role as of this year will now be called the Elementary Program Facilitator (EPF) and will include slightly different tasks, such as sharing the support with principal for students and staff, and playing a more involved role in special education and in mean-spirited behavior investigations.

Websites and PTA

We encourage you to remain or become familiar with our school's website (<http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/sherm/>), from which you can also access our PTA information, and the district website (<http://fairfieldschools.org>). A great deal of pertinent information can be found at these online locations.

We also encourage you, if you haven't already, to become a member of our PTA, and you will receive all of the relevant information required to do so, as well as upcoming events and meetings in upcoming communication.

We welcome all of our new staff, students and parents, as well as those of your returning to Sherman for the 2018-2019 school year, and we look forward to seeing you all soon and beginning what will be a wonderful school year.

Yours truly,

Dr. Ian M. Banner

ibanner@fairfieldschools.org

Follow us on Twitter: @rogershermanllc