



August 17, 2021

Dear Families;

Welcome to Northeast Primary School. Happy new year, and here's to a year that feels more familiar than the past few. While I'm glad some things are over, I know we can do well by building on things we've learned and ways we've grown through our recent challenging times. I truly believe students learn best when they are secure, valued and when we use strong positive teamwork (between schools, homes, and the community.) Our job or goal as a team is to improve our students' literacy, numeracy, and the life skills. Let's "Circle up" to support one another and while we're at it some insert fun into our lives and our work towards these goals.

Northeast School has developed a new handbook for you to be used as a reference tool for navigating our normal routines and beliefs. Familiarizing yourself with it can be a good starting point for our partnership in developing confident and competent learners. Rutland City Public Schools follow all State and CDC guidelines related to COVID. Some of the details and school procedures outlined in our handbook may need to be adjusted as the community health status changes. We will keep you posted.

With that being said, Northeast School has approximately 200 children; with four kindergartens, four first grades, three second grades, and 2 multi-grade classes. School staff promote consistent learning and behavioral expectations by working closely within and across grade levels. We do this all year long, building relationships and learning with each other. We share resources and use common language, such as the expectations we promote through our PAWS Program ("Please Respect; Attend with your Body and Mind; Work Hard; and Safety First.") We use PAWS language and related lessons for motivating and teaching about the importance of learning, working well together and maintaining effort even when we are challenged. With consistency across all settings, our students know that every adult in school is responsible for every child and that we all need to treat one another with care and respect.

Please know that when we speak of "teamwork for learning," we want our families engaged in our school as much as possible. However, while we begin to loosen last year's COVID restrictions we ask for patience and understanding as we follow guidelines and gradually ease into regular routines. For example, we will start the year with asking that all staff and unvaccinated people wear masks and we continue to have student drop offs occur in the lobby only (as opposed to at the classroom doors). We will ease up on restrictions as we safely can, given the health status of our school community members. Please call me or your child's teachers with ideas and suggestions in to be actively engaged in your child's learning and our educational community. Your involvement and support make a difference. I look forward to the upcoming efforts in working with you in providing our children with outstanding educational experiences.

Kindly,

Susanne Engels
Northeast School Principal