

CATHERINE E. DOYLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MR. ANTHONY ALBRO
Superintendent of Schools



MS. LARA SCHMITT
Principal

August 2022

Dear Doyle Families:

Though last school year also brought about some changes, we spent much of it adjusting back to a more traditional school year after unprecedented times. Therefore, it is with especially great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year – a year of *change, investment, exploration, and innovation!* *Change* in that we have new initiatives, programs, and grade level teams... *Investment* in that we are investing in a variety of ways and programs to further advance the quality of our instruction for our students... *Exploration* by stepping out of our comfort zones and taking on these new challenges and changes without reservation or apprehension... and *Innovation* in that we will collectively reach unlimited potential that will ultimately advance Doyle School.

I would like to begin by warmly welcoming some new staff to the Doyle School community as well as some familiar faces back to the building in a different role. Please join me in congratulating, rooting for, and helping to support them as members of our Doyle family:

- Ms. Eileen Dammann - Preschool Disabled Teacher
- Ms. Jennifer Heller - Occupational Therapist
- Ms. Erica Lindner - Grade 2 Teacher
- Ms. Lindsay Litwin - Grade 2 Leave Replacement Teacher
- Ms. Kelly Manicone - ESL Teacher
- Ms. Kelly Muscle - Supervisor of Curriculum
- Ms. Breanna Nazzaro - Guidance Counselor
- Ms. Cathryn Parillo - Library/Media Specialist
- Ms. Christina Stasion - Paraprofessional
- Ms. Molly Ward - Paraprofessional

I would also like to formally recognize our very own Dr. Ally Paskas for earning the distinguished Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Congratulations, Dr. Paskas - we are all so proud of you!

I would like to take a brief moment to thank all Doyle families for your support and respect of the change of class placement procedures. Though these procedures were new and a change from previous school years, we appreciate families putting their trust in us and making any requests for placement based on their child(ren)'s social, emotional, and academic needs. That being said, staff worked extremely hard to place students with these needs at the forefront to create balanced groups that will optimize learning for all classes. **Teacher assignments and student schedules will be available for viewing on the Parent Portal on Thursday, 9/1 at 3 P.M.** If you have any issues with accessing your portal, please contact Mrs. Tiesi (dtiesti@wood-ridgeschools.org) in the Main Office for assistance. Our main method of communication is through the portal so it is essential that you regularly access it as well as our school website and Twitter page for important and updated information and Doyle School highlights.

The safety and security of our students and staff remain our top priority. We urge you to take the time to thoroughly read through these [Opening of Schools Forms Instructions](#), specifically the Student Handbook, as it contains important and updated information pertaining to Doyle School and the district. We also ask that you take heed of the following changes in school procedures:

- ❖ All students who arrive at or later than 8:20 A.M. to school will be considered tardy. **Effective this school year, parents are required to come into the building through the Main Entrance and physically sign in any tardy students.**
- ❖ Due to classroom relocations and the increase in student enrollment and grade level sections, [Drop Off and Pick Up Locations](#) have been revised and are posted to our website. We ask that you adhere to these locations, which can be found on our school website, and remain cognizant of the traffic patterns around the school block to ensure our students' safety. Please do not park in the Drop Off zones, and make sure your child is on the sidewalk before pulling away from the curb. **Please note that school visitors, including parents/guardians, may not access the two staff parking lots in the front of the school building** and that street parking is available to all visitors.
- ❖ All visitors must ring the doorbell of the Main Entrance and state their business. To gain entrance into the building, a staff member will then escort the visitor to have them formally sign in and receive their Visitor's Pass. A School Resource Officer is also present throughout the school day to assist in keeping the building safe and secure.
- ❖ If you are dropping off or delivering any item to your child during the duration of the school day, we ask that you label and place said item in the labeled bin outside the Main Entrance doors. Main Office staff will be checking the bin regularly throughout the school day and will ensure that the labeled items are delivered to the identified students.

I am very excited to announce that the All-Purpose Room, among other facilities and furniture, is back to its former glory; therefore, we will return to "normal" lunch procedures, including the purchasing of school lunch and lunch cards. Please view [this letter](#), which can also be found on our school website, from Nu-Way Concessionaires regarding the purchase of school lunches. Please note that the first day of lunch will be Friday, September 9th. Monthly menus are posted to the district and school websites.

The Wood-Ridge School District will also continue to sponsor a before-school and after-school (Aftercare) child care program for Wood-Ridge Public School students in PreK (must be 4 years old and potty trained) through Grade 6 at the Doyle and Intermediate Schools. The programs for all enrolled students begins on Friday, September 9th, and will run through the last day of school in June. Please be advised that there is a fee for participation in these programs. You can find more information regarding the before and after care programs on the Doyle School and district websites, but are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Karen Wlosek (kwlosek@wood-ridgeschools.org), Care Coordinator, at the Board of Education Offices with any inquiries or concerns.

It is vital to recognize that students' education is a partnership between all parties. Research shows that positive and supportive relationships between home and school result in improved educational outcomes for students. We are extremely fortunate to have a very generous and involved Parent Teacher Association, which we kindly encourage you to join. The PTA works closely with Administration to provide culturally rich activities and social events that enhance students' educational experience, and being a member of this organization is worthwhile in supporting your child(ren)'s school community. Registration information is forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. That being said, if you are interested in serving as a chaperone in school events, including field trips and Field Day, please visit our school website for more information in a letter from the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Albro.

While the school and district calendars can be found online, please mark your own calendars with these few upcoming Doyle events:

- ★ Thursday, 9/1 - Parent Portal opens at 3 P.M. for families.
- ★ Thursday, 9/1 - "Popsicles with the Principal" Meet and Greet event for all new students from 1:30-2:30 P.M. at the playground. All students in attendance must be accompanied by an adult.
- ★ Tuesday, 9/6 - Last day to send in photographs of students reading over the summer to be entered into our "Summer Reading Raffle." Please see the main page of the website for details.
- ★ Wednesday, 9/7 - PreK & Kindergarten "Sneak Peak." Please view the flyer on our website for details on this optional event.
- ★ Thursday, 9/8 - First Day of School! Single Session Day (12:28 P.M. dismissal)
- ★ Friday, 9/9 - Regular Session Day (2:50 dismissal)/First day of school lunch program
- ★ Thursday, 9/22 - Back to School Night 7-9 P.M. This is anticipated to take place in person this year!

I look forward to all that this new school year brings to our school community, and am honored to lead the Doyle School to new heights, ensuring our students are receiving a dynamic and supportive educational experience. Please know that I am always available to you regarding any issues that concern your child.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lara Schmitt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lara Schmitt
Principal