

# Botelle Elementary School

*A Small School with a Big Heart* 



Updates 

## Welcome to the 2021-22 School Year!

We are excited to welcome your children back to school in a few weeks! Our staff has been hard at work preparing for the new school year. Mr. Daley and Mr. Yelsits are busy making the building sparkle. Mrs. Lasko is welcoming new students and families. Teachers are rearranging classrooms and planning engaging learning activities. We can't wait to see our students!

This year, one of our school goals is *COMMUNICATING our REASONING*. Students will have many experiences sharing their thinking, supporting ideas with evidence, listening to understand others, and respectfully critiquing the ideas of others. Students will communicate their reasoning across the curriculum. Watch out when they come home and try to persuade you to get a new pet!

### Multiage Grades

The multiage model is growing to include students in grades 5 and 6. This model has academic, social and emotional benefits for students. Learning is more personalized, based on students' needs and interests. Students also remain with the same teacher for two years.

Although there are a broad range of abilities in a multiage classroom, students are one class of learners. This prompted us to change the name of these classes. PK & K is called Early Primary, 1&2 is Primary and 3&4 is Intermediate. Grades 5&6 is Upper Intermediate. This year they are in a hybrid multiage model for ELA and specials.

## Important Dates

8/25 Norfolk Board of Education meeting in room 211 @ 4pm  
8/31 PreK-6 Meet & Greet @ 2:30  
9/1 **FIRST DAY of SCHOOL (K-6)!!!**  
9/6 Labor Day- No school  
9/9 Pre-K bus ride to school  
9/10 PTO Ice Cream Social @ 5  
9/14 Pre-K first day of school  
9/22 Open House @ 6pm

### Staffing-

- Best wishes to Ms. Montagna, Ms. Hofer, Ms. Veilleux and Mr. Kolosky who are leaving Botelle to pursue other ventures. We welcome back the rest of our staff and want to remind you of two changes. Mrs. Tallon will teach Early Primary (PK/K) and Mrs. McCleary will teach Primary (1/2).

### School Schedule & Calendar-

- School begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:30. PK students attend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-12.
- The 21-22 school calendar is posted on our website. It lists days when school dismisses early and is closed.

### Absences-

- Please call Ms. Dillard when your child is sniffling or sick. When he/she returns, **you must send in a written note**, detailing the reason for the absence in order for it to be excused.

### Lunch-

- All students will receive free lunch at the start of the school year. Please complete the free/reduced lunch paperwork and return it to school to receive additional benefits.
- We hope to offer ice cream this year!
- Miss Sue will serve lunch in two waves. K-4 will eat from 12-12:30 and 5-6 will eat at 12:30.

## Keeping Our School Community Safe

In the spring, we reconvened our Reopening Committee to plan COVID mitigation strategies for the 2021-22 school year. You can find our reopening plan on our school website [www.botelleschool.org](http://www.botelleschool.org) We have new guidance from the state that won't affect our reopening plan, but is a little different from last year. Dr. Iacobelli and I would like to invite families to a Q and A virtual meeting on **August 11 @ 6pm**. You can ask us questions about how Botelle will continue to keep our students, staff and the community safe. We'll share our school health and safety procedures. Look for an email from Mrs. Valentino with a link to the meeting.