



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

August 2020

Dear Botelle Families,

We are excited to welcome your children to school on September 2nd. The building is sparkling clean and classrooms are ready for learning! School will look a little different this year with masks, social distancing and new routines designed to keep everyone healthy and safe but our mission to ....*educate all students to be competent, confident, thoughtful, responsible and contributing members of society* hasn't changed. We will continue to teach the whole child within a safe and positive environment where students will be challenged to learn new content, concepts, strategies and skills in all academic areas and grow as individuals.

Speaking of growing, we've added 17 new students and 10 Pre-K students to our "Small School with a BIG Heart" for a total of 87 students. Enrollment has increased by almost 20%. As such, we've made some changes to our programs and hired new staff. Read on to learn what's new at Botelle! **And even if your child is a temporary distance learner, please return all of the back to school information enclosed in this packet.** Thank you!!

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer,

*Lauren*

### IMPORTANT DATES

- 8/31 Teacher Meet & Greet for K-6 students (see below for times)
- 9/1 BOE Meeting 6pm in Hall of Flags
- 9/2 First Day of School 8:30-1:10 (K-6 students)
- 9/2-9/4 Early Release Days 8:30-1:10
- 9/3 Pre-K Orientation and Bus Ride 10-11:30
- 9/7 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- 9/8 First Day of PK 8:30-11:30, Full Day for K-6 8:30-3:00
- 9/16 Virtual Open House - schedule TBD
- 9/29 Picture Day

## MEET & GREET



Please come to school on 8/31 to meet your teacher(s). You'll also see the school and classrooms set up to promote social distancing which will help prepare students for the first day. Families and students are assigned a 30 minute window by the student's last name. **Please call Mrs.**

**Lasko to RSVP by Friday, August 28th.** Remember your mask!

**A-C 9-9:30**

**D-J 9:45-10:15**

**K-P 10:30-11**

**Q-Z 11:15-11:45**

## STAFF UPDATES



We say farewell to Ms. Pitruzzello, Mrs. Polderman, Mrs. M. Snyder, Mrs. Ayers and wish them well on their new endeavors. Welcome to five new staff members and one Botelle veteran who is coming out of retirement!

Intermediate teacher, Ms. Jessica Coughlin

Instructional assistants, Ms. Dianna Hofer, Ms. Sarah Morey and Ms. Angie Veilleux

Nurse, Ms. Keondra Dillard

Early Primary PK teacher- Mrs. Bea Tirrell



## MULTIAGE CLASSROOMS

Multiage classrooms provide students with many educational opportunities. Students stay with their teacher for two years, build relationships with older and younger classmates and gain a familiarity that supports learning. We are committed to the multiage model at Botelle because we think it is a responsive way to personalize learning for each student while providing a more diverse, rich social experience. It is like a family at school. While we implement COVID recommendations, we are pausing our rollout of the multiage model in the Upper Intermediate classrooms. This year we will have single Grade 5 and Grade 6 classes. Our Early Primary Pre-K and Kindergarten classes are also two separate, single grade classrooms. We will look for opportunities to group those grades as often as possible to promote connections between students.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES

The first day of school for students in grades K-6 is September 2. The first three days of school will be early release days, 8:30-1:10. Lunch will be served but there will be no recess. Many professional development days for staff members have been moved or added in August but two full days remain- one on October 9 and the other on November 3. There are three early release days for professional learning 1/15, 2/12 and 4/1. School will dismiss at 12 on those days and NO LUNCH will be served. The last day of school is scheduled for June 8. It is an early release day.

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES



The school day **begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:00**. Pre-K is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30. K-6 Students who are learning from home will meet with their teacher virtually from 3-3:30. There will be three lunch and recess waves so students remain with their cohorts. The first lunch wave will begin at 11:15 and the last one ends at 1:15. Lunch will be 30 minutes. Recess will begin after lunch and will be outside or on the covered playground. Recess is also 30 minutes. Specialists will travel to classrooms, except PE, and will be approximately 40 minutes. The special schedule is as follows-

Monday & Friday- Physical Education. (Wear clothing appropriate for the weather & sneakers)

Tuesday- Library for Early Primary and Primary

Wednesday- Art or Music

Thursday- Art or Music

Monday & Friday- Instrumental Music (Intermediate & Upper Intermediate students who sign up)

## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL



Students who are being dropped off can enter the building at 8:20 and will proceed directly to class. Cars must line up single file in the upper driveway and drop off students one at a time when they reach the main entrance, where a staff member will let students in. After dropping off, drivers must turn around in the UPPER lot. **If you arrive late, please remain in your vehicle and have your student ring the doorbell to gain entrance into the building. Mrs. Lasko will sign your child in.** Dismissal will begin at 3:00, following the same procedures as drop-off. Please avoid last minute dismissal changes as we have new bus procedures to follow.



## VISITORS

We love seeing families when school is in session and welcoming visitors, but for the beginning of the school year, only staff and students will be allowed in the building when school is in session. If you need to pick up your child during the school day, a staff member will escort your child to the door where you can meet him/her.



## SCHOOL BUS UPDATES

This year we have 3 buses instead of 4. Bus routes are a little longer and families should expect delays in the afternoon until new loading routines are in place. Students must wear masks and board the bus from back to front. There will be no choices on where to sit. Upper Intermediate students will be paired with Primary students as Bus Buddies, to promote a positive, safe and orderly bus ride. Miss Denise is driving bus 70, North Norfolk. Miss Teresa is driving bus 71, South Norfolk and Miss Lisa is driving bus 72, Central Norfolk. If you are interested in volunteering as a bus monitor, please contact Mrs. Lasko. ***We respectfully request that parents avoid making changes to end of the day dismissal routines after 2pm, unless it is an emergency.***



## FACE COVERINGS

Students are required to wear face coverings or masks on the bus and while in the building. We will provide masks to students who forget and our wonderful PTO has purchased special Botelle School masks and lanyards for each child! You can pick up those masks at the Meet and Greet on the 31st. Please remember that face coverings you provide must meet our dress code policy.

**DO NOT** send students to school in masks that may frighten others or have inappropriate wording on them. Face coverings should cover the mouth and nose only. Please label masks with your child's name and wash daily.



## LUNCH & the CAFETERIA

Lunch will be served in the cafeteria with three, smaller lunch waves. Primary, Intermediate and Upper Intermediate students will each have in their own waves. Lunch is \$3 and milk is \$.50. Ice cream and ala carte items will NOT be sold. No money can be exchanged in the cafeteria and families are encouraged to prepay for lunch. For September, there will be only ONE lunch choice. Alternates will resume in October. If your children are learning from home, you may pick up lunch for the week at school. Please contact Mrs. Lasko if you would like to take advantage of this option.



## DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Each morning, please assess your child's wellness prior to sending them to school. We will NOT be taking temperatures as students enter the building. If your child has any of the following COVID symptoms, KEEP THEM HOME.

- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Feeling feverish
- Chills
- Uncontrolled new cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Congestion/Runny nose

We will provide you with a checklist that you can use each day at home. If your child is home and well enough, he/she can participate in the school day through remote learning on their computer. Refrain from practices such as, "Just go to school and see how you feel." or giving children medication to bring down a fever prior to sending them to school. **It is critical that we all follow these guidelines so school can remain open for us all!**



## **IPADS & CHROMEBOOKS**

Students will travel to and from school with a school-provided Ipad (PK-2) or Chromebook (3-6). This practice will ensure that we are ready to switch to remote learning if there is another emergency school closure. Students will receive instruction on how to care for and use their device as well as how to use digital platforms like Google Classroom and Seesaw. Please be sure to monitor your child's device usage while at home and keep it in a safe place. We have also purchased a protective program called Go Guardian for the Chromebooks that ensures student safety and engagement while online. If students visit an inappropriate website, parents and staff will receive an alert.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions big and small. We are happy to help! You can email me or call me at 860-840-7818.

*Lauren* 😊

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