



Toy Town Elementary School

175 Grove Street, Winchendon, Massachusetts 01475

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 school year at TTE. I am thrilled to be your principal for this upcoming year and am very excited for all of the students to come back. For those of you who have not met me, I have been in the school district for 19 years. This is my 4th year as Principal at TTE. I am looking forward to working together to make this a fabulous year.

I would like to introduce you to our new staff. We have a new Dean of Students, Allison Lulham. She comes to us with amazing educational experience and a positive outlook. Our new Art teacher, Linsey Laserte, will now run our Art program. She is very excited to bring some new ideas into our Art classes. We have a new Learning Common (library) filled with amazing new books and furniture. We also have a new Library Paraprofessional, Patty Dillon. Our new ALL program teacher is Molly Gilbo. We look forward to her bringing her insight into the classroom. Welcome to all our new staff.

The district Administration team has spent the summer working on some new district initiatives. Our instructional focus for this year is to ensure that all lessons have:

- Worthy, standards-aligned, well-crafted student-friendly mastery objectives for each lesson, every day
- Lessons aligned to our objectives
- Cognitively demanding / Higher DoK tasks
- Rich instructional dialogue

In order to support our staff in this initiative, we have planned new professional development opportunities, administration will spend more time in classrooms, and we have established an Instructional Leadership Team. This team is comprised of teacher leaders who will lead and support teachers.

Many staff members worked over the summer to create new math guidance maps and assessments. They worked with Looney Consultants and a few other school districts to complete these resources. The school will continue to work with Looney Consultants during the school year to enhance our Math Workshop model. We look forward to this continued relationship. Thank you for all your hard work.

We have a new Parent Resource Center at TTE. This center provides information on community resources, such as mental health, SPED, WIC, heat subsidy, etc. If you need access to the internet or to print, you can use our computer and printer. We have a parent and child library with books of many child based topics. Feel free to stop by.

I've enjoyed meeting with many of you and look forward to our continued partnership in ensuring a productive and fun educational experience for your child(ren). I believe that building strong relationships between home and school is a key factor in increasing student achievement. As principal, my door is always open and I welcome your input. I strongly believe that parental involvement is an essential component to student success, as research continues to show a strong correlation between increased involvement and high student success.

For up to date information and upcoming events, please check our Toy Town Elementary Facebook page or the school website. I have included some important information below. I look forward to working with you throughout the year and for the students' return to school on Wednesday, August 28. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Maryalice Aker, Principal
maker@winchendonk12.org

HANDBOOKS

The Student Handbook, School Calendar and Breakfast in the Classroom Handbook are now available online. They can be accessed on our new and improved school website at <http://www.winchendonk12.org/o/ttes>. If you need paper copies, please contact the office or your child's teacher and we will send home copies.

PARENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Morning Drop off Procedure

Students should be dropped off on the side street next to the school and then walk into the playground. No student should arrive earlier than 8:15 a.m., when staff arrive to supervise. **There is no adult supervision prior to 8:15 a.m..** During inclement weather, students will be allowed to enter the main lobby, but not earlier than 8:15 a.m.. Parents should not enter the main parking lot between 8:20 a.m. and 8:35 a.m., while busses are arriving.

Afternoon Pick up Procedure

The line for parent pick up is in front of the Old Murdock building across the road from the school. Please stay in line and wait for a signal from the crossing guard to proceed with pick up. Since the children are crossing a public thoroughfare, it is important that every precaution be made to follow the direction of the crossing guard. Once busses have entered the front of the school, the busses have the right of way.

Once in the school driveway, parents are asked to stay in line and move forward as indicated by the teachers. For safety reasons, passing other cars lined up in the driveway is prohibited. Students are instructed NOT to run to a car, but to remain at the far end of the driveway and wait for the cars to move forward. The school day ends at 2:50 p.m..

Walkers

Students should walk to the playground. No student should arrive earlier than 8:15 a.m., when the staff will arrive. Students will be monitored by the staff. During inclement weather, students will be allowed to enter the main lobby, but no earlier than 8:15 a.m.

PTO

We encourage participation in whatever capacity you can offer. You can contact the school office for the name and contact information of our PTO leadership. Please consider helping out if you are interested in any of their many projects. There are many ways to work with and through the PTO and becoming an active member in this organization will always benefit our children and our school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Under Massachusetts Education Reform legislation, all schools have been required to have School Councils. The Council is comprised of parents, community members, teachers, and administration. The School Council is committed to promoting the goals of our School Improvement Plan. Meetings are held on a monthly basis during the school year. Any person interested in the school council can volunteer and elections will be held on September 10, 2019, at our Open House. Please let me know if you would like to run for School Council. Once elections are completed, a list of School Council Members and meeting dates for 2019-2020 will be published on our website and available from the main office. The Toy Town Elementary School Improvement Council wants to continue to hear from parents as to how we can help. Parents may be asked to complete surveys to help identify how we can make the school better.