



Memorial School

Michelle Atter
Principal

matter@winchendonk12.org



August 2019

Dear Memorial Students and Families,

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and were able to spend time with family and friends enjoying the outdoors and vacation time. The beginning of the school year is an exciting time for us and we have been very busy preparing for the students to start the new school year.

It is our wish to continue the spirit of collaboration and support that exists at Memorial School and continue to build positive relationships with parents, families and the community that we feel is essential for the success of our students. The MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER will continue to be published electronically to inform parents of upcoming events and information on what your child is doing in school. If you do not have access to the internet, please let our secretary know so she can make sure you get a printed copy of the newsletter. We will also continue to utilize our ONE CALL system to inform parents of upcoming events and important information. In addition to receiving ONE CALL phone calls, I will also be utilizing the ONE CALL texting option to get information out to families. Please, always make sure we have updated phone numbers and email addresses so you can receive these important phone calls, texts, and emails.

Several members from Memorial and Toy Town Elementary, including administration, guidance, and teachers, created a new "Turnaround" plan for the Elementary Schools. This is a combined plan for both schools to provide consistency throughout the elementary grade levels. The plan consists of four turnaround practices that both schools will work on together; *Shared responsibility and collaboration, Student specific supports and instruction to all students, Intentional practices for improving instruction, and School culture and climate.*

We would also like to invite you to join our PTO. It is a great way for you to become involved with your child's school and activities. We can certainly use your support and welcome all that are interested. PTO meetings will be held monthly with the location being at the Memorial School Library. If you are not able to attend the monthly meetings, your support is always needed at events as a volunteer. The first PTO meeting will be announced over the ONE CALL SYSTEM.

This year we will continue reporting student progress in trimesters, which segments the year into three 12 week parts. The trimester system aligns well with our educational practices and provides increased opportunities for teachers to get a better understanding of each individual child before issuing report cards. Parents will receive report cards three times during the school year. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in November and then again in March. These dates are reflected on the 2019-2020 School Calendar.

Memorial School will continue to use the WONDERS reading program and other supplemental materials as part of the ELA program. WONDERS is a researched based program that has been implemented by other surrounding districts, and we are now in our third year of using the program. The Memorial teachers also worked hard over the summer to improve math instruction with our current ENVISIONS math materials, and implementation of a "math workshop model". The "workshop model":

- **Helps teachers address each child's individual learning,**
- **Explicitly teach strategies students will use not only the day they are taught, but whenever they need them,**
- **Support small-group work and conferring, with multiple opportunities for personalizing instruction,**
- **Tap into the power of a learning community as a way to bring all learners along,**
- **Build choice and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum,**
- **Helps students work with engagement so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups.**

School and student information forms are being sent home with our students and include the Parent/Student Handbook with the Handbook Receipt form and Policy Sign-Off document. Emergency forms for the office and the nurse are also included. Please take the time to complete the information and return them as soon as possible. It is very important that we have current emergency contacts on file at all times.

We look forward to all the exciting things we can accomplish together this year.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Atter
Principal