



DANBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Miss Annmarie Holloran: Principal

Mrs. Trish Farrell: Administrative Assistant



August 1, 2016

Hi, Parents and Students,

I can't believe that we are already turning the calendar to August! I hope you are enjoying your summer vacation and will continue to enjoy these last few weeks. Although I miss seeing our students and staff during this time of year, it also provides me quiet time to reflect on our successes and challenges from the previous year and develop a game-plan for the upcoming year.

Last year, we met our school goal of increasing our students' automaticity of math facts and improving our overall student attendance. In addition, by the end of the school year, we had 86% of our students in "green" on the DIBELS assessment. Based on some preliminary SBAC data that we have reviewed, it looks like some significant gains in all areas, except fifth grade math (more information about SBAC at the beginning of the school year). With our TOSA Foundation money, we were able to purchase Chromebook carts and tablets for each grade level and hold a summer retreat for our faculty. This year, we will be looking to provide our faculty with additional professional development opportunities around the integration of technology within the curriculum. We continue to infuse our DES Mission Statement into our daily practice and celebrate student achievement at lunch on Thursdays. As our free and reduced numbers continue to increase, we will be looking to develop a committee of faculty, staff, parents, building-level administration and district-level administration to develop a plan to present to the Department of Education to move from a Title I Targeted Assistance School to a Schoolwide program. With feedback from both faculty and parents, this fall we will be putting together documents to help clarify different procedures such as volunteering, dropping students off in the morning, communication regarding change of dismissal plans, and being a "room-parent."

After extensive curriculum work over the past two years our district will be implementing a new math program, Eureka Math. Eureka Math is a rigorous mathematics program which better aligns to the Common Core Standards and will help our students meet the challenges of 21st century learning. Our preschool through fifth grade teachers began working with Eureka Math during last school year and recently were offered two days of intensive training at the beginning of the summer to become more familiar with this new math program. Our district is looking forward to this curriculum change and our Curriculum Coordinator will be speaking at our upcoming Open House. For more information on Eureka Math please visit the following websites:

<http://www.edreports.org/math/reports/compare.html?level=k8>
<http://curriculum-instruction-assement.wikispaces.com/Eureka+Math>

I would like to take this time to welcome everyone to stop by on Tuesday, August 23rd, for my annual
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ICE CREAM SOCIAL!! My family and I will be serving ice cream from 6:30-7:30 p.m. out on the basketball court at Danbury Elementary School. Come and enjoy time with your family and friends. Please remember that everyone in your family is welcome to attend this evening event (rain or shine). On this same evening, from 6:00-6:30 p.m., we will be hosting a Kindergarten Open House. This will be an opportunity for our new families to come into the classroom and informally say hello to the classroom teacher, Mrs. Seavey.

Staff List (more extensive list in Student/Handbook for related service providers)

Ann Holloran-Principal	Amy Robinson-School Nurse & Asst. Principal	Trish Farrell-Part-Time Administrative Assistant
Amanda Seavey-K/1 teacher	Kristen Barbour-Grade 2 teacher	TBD-teacher for Mrs. Barbour's maternity leave
Kristine Sterner-Grade 3/4 teacher	Sarah Roberts-Grade 5 teacher	Colleen Abbey-Special Education teacher/case manager
Caroline Paquette-Title I teacher	TBD-Title I tutor	Mary Simard—1:1 paraprofessional
TBD-Special Education paraprofessional	Kathleen Connor-Guidance Counselor	Ethan Brown-Music teacher
Denise Plante-Renaud-Art	Pamela Plankey-ICT	Sandy Frost-Physical Education
TBD-Part-time K/1 classroom paraprofessional	Tom Bowen-Custodian	Heather Shaffer-Newfound Nutrition

Please remember that the first day of school for our students will be Wednesday, August 31st, and that school starts at 7:30 a.m. and breakfast is offered, starting at 7:10 a.m. To ensure a smooth transition on the first day, we will have the classroom teachers come into the multi-purpose room at 7:30 a.m. Starting promptly at this time, classroom teachers will walk their students to their classrooms. Parents may join their children from 7:30-8:00 a.m. in the classroom. At 8:00 a.m., our entire school community will meet back in the multi-purpose room for a very brief kick-off assembly. After the assembly, only students and teachers will return to their classrooms. We used this schedule last year, and it helped to reduce the first-day-of-school worries and jitters (for both students and parents ☺).

We have had some discussions at our faculty meetings to see if we could have some parent volunteers to join us in the mornings from 7:00-7:30 to offer our students different opportunities such as a walking club, finish last minute homework club, and quiet reading space. If you have time in your morning and are currently fingerprinted through the school district, please look for the half-sheet of paper in your child's opening day packet and return it to school. If we receive enough volunteers, Mrs. Farrell will be in touch with individuals during the week of September 12th to develop a permanent schedule.

There are many rewards for attending a small community school, however there are also a few challenges. Mrs. Farrell, our administrative assistant is part-time and leaves at 1:00 p.m. She is not present for dismissal. From 1:00 on, Mrs. Robinson, our school nurse, covers the office, handles nursing issues and on the days I am at NHCS, addresses student behavior concerns. To help ensure all students are dismissed properly at the end of the day, we need your assistance!

- **If you know in the morning that there is a change in your child's normal dismissal routine—Please write a note.**
- **If your family's schedule varies depending on the week—Please develop a written system to send in to the office each Monday morning.**

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- **If a change occurs during the day—Please make an effort to call prior to 1:00.**

We understand emergencies will happen, but we appreciate everyone's effort in making dismissal a safe and less stressful event.

Bus routes and pick-up times will be posted on our school's website closer to school starting. For questions or concerns regarding transportation, please contact First Student at 744-3278.

Parents often wonder if there are any specific school supplies or items they should purchase for the beginning of school. Our school provides all students the materials necessary to have at school such as pencils, notebooks, crayons, scissors, markers, erasers, pencil case, etc. My only recommendation would be a sturdy, long-lasting backpack and basic school supplies for home such as a few pencils, a basic box of crayons/colored pencils and a few glue sticks.

Newfound Nutrition, our food service program, will be offering our students, for a fee, a bagged cold breakfast, a variety of snack items, milk, and hot lunch. A monthly menu is attached to our weekly Friday newsletter. Electronic balance alerts will be sent to parents after 2:00 p.m. every Monday through Thursday once a student's balance reaches \$5 or less. Students will be allowed to charge up to two full meals once their balance falls into the negative (-\$5 at the elementary schools, and -\$6 at the HS) before they will receive the alternative meal. This alternative meal (sunbutter sandwich entree) will be charged at full price, as it is a USDA approved complete meal. Students with a negative balance will not be allowed to purchase a la carte snack/food items if they have a negative balance. Free and reduced lunch paperwork will be in your child's first-day packet. Those who believe they are eligible should apply and apply early! In addition, lunch prices increased this year. School lunches are now \$2.75 and breakfast remains at \$1.25.

Our amazing PTO has already scheduled their first meeting and event! We would love to have more parents become involved with this great group of dedicated volunteers. Please join us on Tuesday, August 9th, at 4:30 p.m. At this meeting, they will be planning their annual pancake breakfast (September 10th in conjunction with Danbury Grange Fair) and setting their calendar for the year.

We will have a busy first week of school! Parents, please make sure to read all the important paperwork and fill out all the various forms during those first few days of school. We will be looking for updated information regarding emergency contacts, etc. To help with communication, each Friday your child will receive our weekly newsletter which contains the next week's breakfast/lunch menu, a calendar of upcoming events and examples of student work.

I look forward to another great year and to seeing our amazing students on August 31st! Mark your calendars, as our Open House will be on Tuesday, September 20th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please do not hesitate to call or email (aholloran@sau4.org) with any questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely,

Ann Holloran

P.S. Our community garden is doing quite well; if you are driving by DES, feel free to stop by and pick some of the fresh vegetables!

DES Mission Statement:

At Danbury Elementary School, we believe that learning is a community partnership; that the combined efforts of students, staff and families are essential for successful learning. We believe that children learn best in a safe and nurturing environment -- in which self-worth, cooperation, respect, and exemplary behavior promote academic achievement and the desire for lifelong learning. We value individual responsibility, equal opportunity, strength of character, the desire for knowledge, and our creative spirit.

—DES ROCKS!