Eagle Families –

I cannot believe that I am saying this, but SCHOOL IS HERE!! Our staff have had a very full day couple of days of training while getting ready for our amazing students to return. We are so excited to see them and make this the best year possible for our Eagles.

For those families who were able to join us at the Back-to-School Bash as well as the TK/Kinder Playdates, you have all brought us so much energy and excitement for this school year. It was so amazing to see our students interacting and laughing with one another. Our students are what make all the hard work worthwhile. A special thank you to all of the parents that made these events possible. We are so grateful to you for bringing the Bash and the Playdates to life could not be more grateful.

**REGISTRATION**

A huge THANK YOU to all families that have completed the registration for Neil Armstrong and your generous contribution towards our school programs. Your donations allow for us to staff essential positions, such as our librarian, Kinder classroom instructional assistants, and instructional aides in reading, writing, and math for all students. Additionally, these funds also allow for our teachers to purchase essential classroom supplies. Your donations are sincerely appreciated. If you have not yet had the chance, please complete your registration here: <https://naes.futurefund.com/registration> . Thank you for your continued partnership in your student’s education.

**FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL DROP-OFF**

 If you have received correspondence from your teacher about how they are conducting drop-off tomorrow, please follow those instructions. These are general guidelines but your teachers are likely to be more specific to your student.

 Before I dive into the details, please be considerate of our neighbors when you approach our school. There will be many students present so please observe the speed limit. We also ask that you not block any driveways, do not double park, and please do not park in the staff parking lots. We really appreciate all families helping to make this a positive experience for all involved.

 **TK –** Please bring your student to the TK gate by 8:15 AM. Mrs. Homen will invite you and your student into the classroom for 15 minutes to adjust to the environment. At that point, parents will leave the classroom and your students will remain in the classroom with the staff. Because TK and Kindergarten both have such a short day tomorrow, after you drop off your child, PTA invites you to join them in the front of the school, near the kinder yard, for coffee and pastries while you wait for your child to be finished.

 **Kindergarten –** Families will drop their children off at the kindergarten gate, near the kindergarten playground, if you are in Mrs. Metz or Mrs. Schulman’s classes. If your student is in Mrs. Forsythe’s class, you will drop off by the gate near the MPR. Families will not be allowed into the classroom tomorrow. Sometimes the separation is hard on the first day of school, but our staff is experienced in this transition each year and promise we will take good care of your child. When you exude confidence to your student, they will feel that and tend to mirror your emotions. Because TK and Kindergarten both have such a short day tomorrow, after you drop off your child, PTA invites you to join them in the front of the school, near the kinder yard, for coffee and pastries while you wait for your child to be finished.

 **Mrs. Eisan and Mrs. Reardon’s C**lasses – Your students will be dropped off in the front of the school. There will be cones with your student’s teacher’s names on them in the front of campus and your teachers will pick them up there.

 **Mrs. Howell’s 1/2 combo class –** Your students will be dropped off at the back of the school near the F-Wing. There will be a cone with your student’s teacher’s name on it and your teacher will pick them up there.

 **2nd through 5th Grade classes** – All 2nd through 5th grade classes will have cones at the back of the school across the blacktop. Please look for the cone that shows your student’s teacher’s name and line up behind it. If you cannot find the place for your student to go, please find a staff member in a vest and we will be happy to direct you.

We invite loved ones to accompany their student on to campus for the **first three days of school only.** After this first week, students will all line up directly at their door, not on the blacktop. After this first week, we will close our campus and not allow anyone other than students walk onto campus. During this first week, our teachers will be showing students where to go so that know exactly where to go as we move forward together.

**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

With the new school year comes a new breakfast program. We will be serving breakfast each day. On a typical Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, breakfast will be served in the MPR during the morning recess. On Wednesday, Breakfast will be served from 8:15 – 8:30 in the MPR.

Because the first day of school has a morning recess, despite it being a Wednesday, we will serve lunch during the morning recess.

Lunch will be served tomorrow after school should your student wish to get lunch from the MPR and eat in there.

Thank you for your patience with us as we sort all of this out. There are so many changes and we are trying to get this all right for our students. We will communicate as much as we can to make sure all families are in the loop, but also, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – August 10th from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

Back to school night is a PARENTS ONLY night for you to meet your student(s) teachers in their classrooms while also giving you an opportunity to see previous years’ teachers and others who support your student during the school day. Tomorrow, August 10th, we will be hosting our Back-to-school night from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

We will start at 6:00 in the classrooms with the teachers to hear from them about themselves and their classes for this upcoming school year. Beyond the logistics of a class, I hope you hear about the passion for education, the care for students, and the commitment we have to the whole child and their growth.

 Around 6:30, I will invite all parents to the back stage of the blacktop where I will be chatting with you for just a few minutes and welcoming you to the year ahead. I will also be able to introduce a few changes to our staff this year and hopefully help you feel our collective excitement for the year ahead.

Around 6:40, I will direct you to visit the tables that we will have on the blacktop so you can meet the additional staff who will be supporting your student this year. You will be able to visit the following tables:

* Grade Level Table: say hello to the other teachers working with your student this year or teacher from previous years who made an impact on your student
* PE and Science teachers who support your student each week
* Library
* Support Services
* Academic Boosters (NAAB)
* PTA
* AND MORE!!!

I know this is different than a traditional Back-to-School night, however I strongly want to emphasize the whole community of people who are here to support all of our students. Our school extends beyond the classroom walls, and I hope you will able to leave that night feeling inspired about the year ahead and confident that your students are in great hands!

[**CALENDAR FOR AUGUST**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zRpnzz2oCje3k5CCwqQjK6Z0Y1IFLbezFw7HjPQyEn8/edit?usp=sharing)

Lastly, I have included a calendar for the month of August, as all of the start and end times of the school day can be confusing during the first month. With the First Day of School Schedule, Wednesday schedules, Assessment Schedules, and Slip Schedules for Kinder and First Grades, we know it can be tough to remember. I wanted you to have all of this information in one place for your reference to hopefully simplify this for you.

 As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Please tell your student how excited we are to see them. We hope they get a great night sleep tonight and we cannot wait to see them tomorrow to kick off a great school year!

Take Care,

Jared Gagnon

Principal

Neil Armstrong Elementary School

Pronouns: He/Him/His

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