



Hi All –

I just want to take a moment to share staffing and structure changes prior to our placements coming out. (This afternoon☺)

As many of you already know, Ms. Marcus has decided to retire. She has been an invaluable member of our Pembroke Team for many years, and has positively influenced the lives of countless children, families and colleagues. She will be missed terribly, but we wish her well on the next phase of her journey!

Next, I'd like to introduce two of our new classroom teachers who are joining our Pembroke PRIDE this fall: Mandy Harvath and Tracy DeVries.

Mrs. Harvath is joining us from BCS. She has taught on a 3/4 BCS team for the past sixteen years. Many of our families and past students, who have had the pleasure of having Mrs. Harvath as a teacher, have reached out and shared their praise of her as a teacher, and excitement for her being a part of our **3rd Grade Team**. She and Mrs. Hart have already begun collaborating and supporting one another! Our 3rd Graders are going to LOVE their teachers!

Mrs. DeVries is also joining our **2nd grade team**. She comes to us with many years of valuable experience. She taught 1st and 2nd grade for seven years in Berkley, spent almost two years teaching at an International School in Stuttgart, Germany and most recently served as a Reading Specialist for children in 2nd – 5th grade in Lake Orion. She is excited to get back into the classroom and to be a member of our Pembroke PRIDE! While she was only hired a couple of days ago, she, Mrs. McClure and Mrs. Djokaj have already been "Zooming" together to build relationships and plan what is going to be a strong year of virtual teaching and learning! The true winners are our/her 2nd grade students!

Thank you in advance for sending a warm PRIDE welcome to both Mandy & Tracy.

ATTENTION 4th & 5th Grade Families:

Due to the many changing factors, and moving parts, we have decided it is best to change our 4/5 teaming structure this year.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE:

Fourth Grade

- Mrs. Dishinger and Mr. Warnemuende will be teaching our 4th graders this year.
- Mrs. Dishinger will teach all 4th graders Reading, Writing, Word Study
- Mr. Warnemuende will teach all 4th Graders Math, Science Social Studies
- They will not be teaching any 5th grade classes this year.

Fifth Grade

- Mrs. Perkins and Mr. Zbanek will be teaching our 5th graders this year.
- Mrs. Perkins will teach all 5th graders Reading, Writing, Word Study
- Mr. Zbanek will teach all 5th Graders Math, Science Social Studies
- They will not be teaching any 4th grade classes this year.
- As a result, there is one change to the overall looping structure we have implemented over the past several years.
 - What's the same:
 - The students who had Mrs. Perkins last year will still stay together as a class and will still have Mrs. Perkins as their Homeroom teacher.

- The students who had Mr. Zbanek last year will still stay together as a class, and will still have Mr. Zbanek as their Homeroom teacher.
- What's different?
 - Mrs. Dishinger and Mr. Warnemuende will not be teaching any 5th graders this year.
 - If you are a family with a 4th and a 5th grader, there is not an option to have both children share the same teacher team.

I know this is a change, and there will be some disappointment, but it is a necessary change that will have many benefits as we keep our eye on the future and our hopes on returning to in person learning.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, and for having a positive approach for sharing this information with your kiddos! All four of these teachers are fantastic, and are excited to meet the new half of their students!

Schoology Questions & Zoom

Teachers have been preparing for your students to return to classes on Monday. We look forward to this school year, and we are all excited to begin learning together about the new learning management system, Schoology.

I know many of you have questions and worries about mastering Schoology in order to assist your children on Monday. I am here to share – PLEASE DO NOT WORRY! ☺ Teachers are working hard to learn the new platform, and will continue learning more with each passing day. As a result, Teachers will be rolling this out to students gradually overtime.

What about Monday, you ask ... In the meantime, we will continue to use Zoom as our teaching/communication platform!

~ Be well

Susan

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