

August 22, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you all had a very restful summer. The July & August weather has been fabulous and it is so nice our vacation has been extended until after Labor Day!

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to Waterville Valley Elementary. Kate Metevia is our new 3-5 teacher. Kate has both undergraduate degree from Colgate and a Master's from Manhattanville College. She is certified in Elementary and Special Education.

Tessa Morphis is our new guidance counselor. She has a Bachelors of Science degree in social work from Plymouth State University and a Master's of Education in school community from Rivier. She will be working three days in Wentworth and one day at Waterville Valley.

The big news is our population. We left in June with 23 students, graduating three. Right now we have 44 and counting! We will be welcoming 12 new families. The new all day Kindergarten has been a big hit. We have 6 kindergarteners this year. 4 of them will be traveling into the Valley.

Ms. Orlando will be teaching 6th grade Language Arts and study skills 6-8.

Mrs. Hannigan will be teaching 5th and 6th grade math and supervising Algebra I and Geometry.

Mr. Poole will be teaching 7-8 grade Language Arts, 7, 8th grade Pre-Algebra and 7, 8th grade math skills, 6-8 science, 6-8 social studies.

We have reconfigured the 6-8 classroom to accommodate 22 middle schoolers. We will be using instructional space upstairs for grade 6 and there will be breakout space right outside the classroom. All barriers have been removed between the classroom and common area.

Additionally to support science and social studies instruction, there will be an aide in the classroom for the afternoon.

There will be a meeting on August 25th @3:00pm in the library for parents & students who are taking Algebra I Honors. Missy Lash will be talking about parent responsibility and how to register. I will be talking about the school's role.

The math schedule has been changed so all specials will be @2:00pm so the Middle School students leaving for co-curricula will not be missing core subjects.

The first day of School will begin with a morning meeting in the multi-purpose room. All parents are welcome to join us. Rachel from the WVRD will talk about the after school program and I will talk about the theme for the year, handbook changes and introduce new kids and their families. The PTA will have a coffee following the meeting so new families can meet everyone.

I would like everyone to remember alum Spc Marc Paul Decoteau, who would have celebrated his 21st birthday on September 2, 2011. There will be a special flag flyer in his memory on his flag pole. There will also be Dave Cummings from Hoops for Hero's at the WVRD on September 2, 2011 trying to break the Guinness Book of World Records record for free throws. Stop by and support him.

Teachers are here August 23rd, 24th and 25th for Professional Development and then we all begin on Tuesday, September 6th. It is a PE day, so please be sure your child brings sneakers that day.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Enjoy the rest of August.

Sincerely,

M.Gail Hannigan