

Waterford Street School

Earl Martin, Principal

Melissa McDonald, Assistant Principal



Gardner Public Schools

www.gardnerk12.org

62 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440

P: (978) 632-1605

F: (978) 630-4037

August 5, 2019

Dear Waterford Street School Families:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We hope you are having a summer filled with relaxation and quality family time. The Waterford staff is working hard to ensure your child has a positive and productive year and wanted to keep you updated on important dates and information.

Your Child's Teacher:

- You will receive this information through a mailing that will be sent out by August 9th.

Important Dates:

- **August 28th** - Back-to-School Festival - this event will be held at the new Watkins Field next to Gardner High School on Catherine St. from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Rain date: August 29th). There will be games, refreshments, and an opportunity to meet the Waterford Street School staff.
- **September 3rd** - First Day of school for **GRADE ONE ONLY**
- **September 4th** - Kindergarten orientation for students **only** with the **last name A-L** - **this is a half day program and parents/caregivers **MUST** accompany their child. Parents/caregivers can ride the bus with their child and be transported home by bus at the end of orientation. The orientation will begin at 9:15, and will end between 10:45 and 11:00.
- **September 5th** - Kindergarten orientation for students **only** with the **last name M-Z** - ** this is a half day program and parents **MUST** accompany their child. Parents/caregivers can ride the bus with their child and be transported home by bus at the end of orientation. The orientation will begin at 9:15, and will end between 10:45 and 11:00.
- **September 5th** - Preschool orientation from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- **September 6th** - First official day for **ALL Kindergarten** students
- **September 10th** - First official day for **Preschool** students

Additional Important Information:

- School Hours: Our school day begins at 9:15 a.m. and we ask that you do not drop your child off before 9:00 a.m. as staff are not available to monitor and escort children to their rooms before that time.
- Busing: Busing is available for all Kindergarten students. Grade One students who live over a mile from the school are also eligible for this service. More specific information will be sent home in a mailing and also published on the district website in the coming weeks. We ask that you please inform your child's teacher which method of transportation he/she will be using.

- Parent/caregiver Pick-Up and Drop-Off: Last year, we instituted a new parent/caregiver drop-off and pick-up procedure for **Kindergarten and Grade 1** families. The system involved parents driving to the side of the building for their child's entry and exit via the access road. This was a very positive change as parents appreciated the convenience of not having to leave their cars. It does, however, take some getting used to. To aid your understanding, I've included in this mailing a map with our procedures. This will also be posted on the school and district web-pages. We ask for your patience during the first week as the wait time might be longer than usual. I can assure you that once everyone becomes familiar with the process, it moves along quickly and efficiently. **Preschool** drop-off requires that parents park on Waterford Street, and then walk their child to the separate preschool entrance. Preschool children will exit from this same location.
- First Day of School: We ask that your child come with a backpack, snack, and either lunch money or a lunch from home. Please note that nut products are not allowed at our school. Free and reduced lunch applications will be sent home with your child the first day of school.
- Please visit our school website and facebook page to receive additional updates and notices throughout the year.

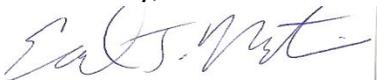
At Waterford, we are committed to being a place where all community members are enthusiastic, kind, cooperative, and resourceful lifelong achievers. We strive to accomplish this by:

- Learning and practicing what it means to be a safe, respectful, and responsible Waterford Street School citizen - these three words make up our school mantra. We teach and live these values daily.
- Providing a rigorous, enriching, and enjoyable academic experience. We want your child to come home every day with knowledge to share, skills to demonstrate, and a smile on their face!
- Fostering positive relationships between the staff, students, and their families.
- Infusing your child with a sense of belonging and pride in their school. Go Waterford Wildcats!
- Incorporating every child's family as part of the school community. My door is always open and I welcome questions, concerns, and ideas parents and other members of the community would like to share. I also hope to see you at the many events we'll have throughout the year celebrating the great work our teachers and students are doing.

For those of you returning to Waterford, I look forward to seeing you again! For those new to our school, I can't wait to meet you!

If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,



Earl Martin
Principal