



Pelham Elementary School District



Dear Pelham School Family,

The summer vacation break is close to ending and time is drawing near to the start of a new school year. I hope that your family's summer has been restful, re-energizing, and most of all fun. We are looking forward to seeing all of our new and returning students join us next week! Custodians have been working hard all summer and the school is clean and shining, and ready to fill with children again. The gardens have been flourishing all summer and you can see one of the beds above. I'd like to thank all of the families that helped to water the gardens throughout the summer months.

The Pelham PTO is sponsoring a Pelham "Back to School" picnic on **Monday, August 28, from 5:30 –7:00 P.M. for all Pelham School families.** Please pack a picnic supper and join other families on the Pelham school grounds—**weather permitting.** (We will cancel and reschedule the picnic if it rains.) The PTO will provide beverages, cake, and salad, and we'll get an opportunity to sample some of our school gardens produce. In addition, if you are up to grilling, the PTO will pull out the new grill for the school, but you're on deck for doing your own cooking. This event is a long-standing tradition and geared to welcoming new students and families and staff, and also serves as an opportunity for students and families to meet teachers and visit with classmates. The Pelham School Community has also been invited to attend the First Day Welcome Party at the Amherst Common on **Tuesday, August 29, from 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Please bring a picnic dinner and join the fun for school banner decorating, musical guests, community partner tables, college athletes and mascots, and lots more fun activities. I hope to see all of you at these festive back to school events!

School begins before Labor Day. The first day of school for students in grades 1- 6 will be **Wednesday, August 30.** Whereas Kindergarten and preschool students begin on the same day, they will have a different beginning of the year transition schedule as outlined in separate messages that have been sent out to kindergarten and preschool families.

We have had several exciting changes and opportunities in staffing. William Lawrie is our new kindergarten teacher and Carol Schotte is the new preschool teacher. Sara LaPlante joins us as our new third grade teacher and we are continuing our search for our new counselor, and hope to have that finalized soon. Catherin Havens is our new Speech and Language teacher, Emily Neimann will be our new PE teacher, and Elaine Caraballo is now one of our permanent staff. We welcome all of these staff members to our learning community!

I have attached a copy of the bus routes to this message and they can be also accessed on the web at <http://www.arps.org>

Pelham Elementary School • 45 Amherst Road Pelham, Massachusetts 01002 • (413) 362-1100

If your child will be riding the bus, please check the route plan carefully and let us know if you do not see your stop. Please have your child at the nearest school bus stop ten minutes *before* the bus is scheduled to arrive. At the beginning of the year buses may run off schedule as drivers and students become accustomed to the new stops and schedule, so your patience is appreciated. Buses will drop off and pick up students at the front entrance to the school on Amherst Road. Parents may **not** use the bus lane, but are urged to drop off their children in the designated parent drop off area or in the back parking lot behind the library. Please **do not park** in the drop-off lane. Preschool will begin at 8:50 a.m., so we expect that there will be a level of increased traffic in the parking lot and preschool families are allowed to park in the bus lanes after 8:50. We are asking that families adhere to the drop-off traffic plan in the interests of safety for everyone. Please feel free to call the school (362-1100) if you have any questions about the bus route or arrival/dismissal procedures.

Student supervision begins at 8:35 at the school, and if you need childcare for your student before this time please contact the school to find out more information about the Pelham Before School Program. Dawn Sawula and Sage Scott will staff the Before School program which begins at 7:00 a.m. If you would like information about the Pelham After School Program, please call Lennie Ware at 265-3766. For your convenience, here is the link to the new school calendar: <https://goo.gl/8GNWEP>

We are excited to begin the new school year and view it as an opportunity to grow and improve upon our practices and will be sharing out some of our new ideas and plans in the upcoming weeks. I believe that positive and effective partnership with families is so crucial in ensuring a successful and meaningful learning experience for your child. I value your input and support, and welcome your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me at Pelham School, or send me an email at desjarlaisl@arps.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais, Principal