

LEADING THE CHARGE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Amanda Riedl, Principal
Ashley McCormick, Assistant Principal
Stacy Stackhouse, Assistant Principal



July 2018

Dear Mustang Families,

A “new adventure” awaits this year as we continue to forge new traditions as Mighty Mustangs. Mill Creek Academy has begun to take its identity as a “school of excellence.” As we prepare for our new year and “Leading the CHARGE of life-long learning,” we have new leaders of excellence that will join our team and others who have moved into new positions. As we kickoff our new school year, I hope you will take time to show our love and support as a Mighty Mustang Team and family.

Mrs. Ashley McCormick and Mrs. Stacy Stackhouse – Assistant Principals
Mr. Al Barkoskie – Facility Manager
Mrs. Kathleen Tompkins – Bookkeeper
Mr. Christopher Gabaldon – Technology Coordinator
Mrs. Amber Sipes – ESE Teacher
Ms. Caitlin Haberin – Kindergarten
Ms. Jennifer Hughes and Ms. Lindsay Trimble – 3rd grade
Mrs. Diane Lawson – 4th grade
Mrs. Kristin Meidling (former Ms. Cook☺) and Ms. Erin Ward – 5th grade

AND our 6th grade team:

Mrs. Jenn Alaimo – Math
Mrs. Kristin Arnold – Science
Mrs. Kristi Brown – Social Studies
Mr. Anthony Canazi – Band
Mr. Roger McDaniel – English Language Arts
Mrs. Kristi Reyes – PE/Athletic Director
Mr. Armartes Williams – Critical Thinking/Digital Tools/Coding
Art – To be announced

We will continue to fill current vacancies as needed and keep our families and friends updated on any changes to current staffing.

Most recently, my family and I were able to take some great adventures together, exploring areas that we had yet to explore together. What I learned quickly is because our adventure was new, intentional planning was critical for our success. You see, in education, the adventure is progressive, intense, and requires risk-taking in order to provide a high level of success for ALL learners. Each day, our intentional planning, access to a guaranteed and viable curriculum, and the commitment to continuous learning from teachers and staff give strength to the “new adventure” that awaits Mill Creek Academy.

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The learning community of Mill Creek will ensure that all achieve their fullest potential through challenging, purposeful learning opportunities; where learning is the only option.

As a learning community, celebrating the success of student learning is a priority. This year our English Language Arts and Math FSA scores were among the top in the district, in both proficiency and learning gains. Our K – 2 students showed great gains in their learning as measured by the iReady assessment and Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments. When an organization identifies and agrees on learning outcomes for all students in a grade level and provides rigorous learning opportunities for students to meet those learning opportunities, SUCCESS prevails.

Adventure awaits this year as we continue to conquer new experiences with courage and strength – Mustang Strong! Our commitment to our students and community continues to drive our vision, *“The Learning Community of Mill Creek will ensure that **ALL** achieve their fullest potential through challenging, purposeful learning opportunities; where learning is the only option!”* **We are excited to continue the “traditions of excellence” as Mill Creek Academy.**

With school beginning soon, I wanted to give you some information that may be helpful in the upcoming weeks:

REGISTRATION: GOING ON NOW

- If you will **NOT** be returning to Mill Creek Academy, please call the front office at 904-547-3720. We want to make sure that we are staffed correctly for the upcoming year.
- Also, if you have new neighbors or know of new families that have not registered, please encourage them to do so ASAP. We know students are more successful when they are ready to start school the first day. In an effort to serve our families at the highest levels, SJCS D has increased the fidelity of enrollment requirements and we want to make sure families have time to collect all required paperwork.

6TH GRADE MEET AND GREET: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8 – 5:30 – 8:00 PM

- A specific 6th grade informational flyer will be sent to students and families very soon. However, we would like to encourage our families to make this evening a priority.
- The Middle School Handbook and School Supply list will be available online for parents/students by Monday, July 16.

K – 5TH GRADE MEET AND GREET: THURSDAY, AUGUST 9 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Children and families are invited to visit their student’s classroom, meet the teacher and drop off school supplies. This time will not be dedicated to discovering classroom expectations, but rather becoming acquainted with the classroom and teacher. Learning routines and schedules will be discussed during Curriculum Chat Night on September 11. The Café, Extended Day, and Transportation staff will also be available for parents to gain information regarding these programs.
- **Kindergarten students ONLY** – Kindergarten students will receive an email from their teacher by **Wednesday, August 1**, with their assigned staggered start date. Staggered start dates will be August 10, 13 **OR** August 14. **ALL KINDERGARTEN** Students will start their first full day together on Wednesday, August 15.
- **All kindergarten students** will need to visit the bus area on the front loop to have a photo taken by the transportation department during Meet and Greet.

**NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION (INCLUDING ANY KINDERGARTEN FAMILY NEW TO MCA):
AUGUST 9, 10:00 AM**

- Families are invited to the Café to attend an informational session with Mrs. Riedl, Mrs. McCormick, and Mrs. Stackhouse to become familiar with Mill Creek's commitments and expectations as partners in education. We look forward to spending time with all our new families.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: FRIDAY, AUGUST 10 (REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS, FULL DAY -
8:30 AM – 2:50 PM)**

We welcome parents in escorting their child to class **until Friday, August 17**. At this time, we believe our students will have established independence and will be able to walk as an independent learner to their classroom. It is important that our students are confident learners!

Just a reminder: We ask that parents **DO NOT** plan to visit their child during lunch until **Tuesday, September 4**. This will allow our CAFÉ Leaders to establish CAFÉ routines and behaviors with our students.

On **Monday, August 6** an email will be sent to 1st- 5th grade parents introducing your student's new teacher for the school year. We are currently working on class placement and are super excited about sharing this information with you soon. Should you not have access to email or do not receive an email on Monday, please call the front office at 904-547-3720 on Tuesday for assistance.

Everything gets extremely busy this time of year as we gear up for another year of learning; however, we are never too busy to answer your questions or listen to your concerns. Please contact the front office if we can assist you with anything in preparing for the new year.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer and we look forward to seeing you very soon!

Sincerely,

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader
"Every Need, Every Student, Every Day!"

P.S. Don't forget about our summer learning challenge. We already have the snow cone party planned for those students that complete the challenge.