

LEADING THE CHARGE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Amanda Riedl, Principal
Stacy Stackhouse, Assistant Principal
Jacqueline Ottosen, Assistant Principal



July 2019

Dear Mustang Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your summer and looking forward to the 2019 – 2020 school year. We have been working day and night preparing to open our new middle school facilities in addition to the newly renovated Front Office, Media Center, and Café. As we prepare for our new year, we have new leaders of excellence that will join our team. Please take some time to show our love and support as a Mighty Mustang Team and family.

- Mrs. Jacqueline Ottosen - Assistant Principal
- Mr. Brian Green - Dean
- Mrs. Nicole Ribeiro - Guidance Counselor (K - 4)
- Ms. Jeanne Bischoff – Technology Coordinator
- Mrs. Mary Eaton – ESE Teacher
- Mrs. Renee Kocourek – ESE Speech and Language Pathologist
- Mrs. Catie Grimes – 1st Grade
- Mrs. Sarah Bailey – 2nd Grade
- Mrs. Christi Thomas – 3rd grade
- Mrs. Jenny Cramer, Mrs. Amy Prichard and Mr. Michael Marozzi – 4th grade
- Ms. Maddox Yuro – 5th grade
- Mrs. Jennie Dewing and Mrs. Diana Weldon – Front Office Clerks
- Mr. Robert Zamorano – Custodial Staff
- Mrs. Jessica Veon – Data Operator Clerk
- Mrs. Amy Graff - Elementary Paraprofessional

Middle School New Staff:

- 6th grade team: Ms. Sydney Coulter - World History, Mrs. Hilary Fisher – Science/STEM
- 6th/7th grade team: Mrs. Moira McCabe - ELA/World History, Mrs. Tina Hemby – MA
- 7th grade team: Mr. Bill Quinn – Science, Mrs. Yvette Sexsion – MA/Algebra I, Mrs. Laura Tollefson – ELA
- 6th/7th Electives - Band – Mr. Clint Carter, ICT 3 – Mrs. Tammy Bennet, PE – Mr. Thomas Bibla, Spanish – Yvette Martin

Last year, MCA moved forward aggressively to truly meet the needs of “every” learner. Although this seems like an impossible task to many, at MCA we embrace the diversity that our learners bring to us each day and look forward to accessing the tools to meet their needs. Celebrating the addition of our 6th grade, we observed amazing growth in our learners in all curricular areas, however the point of pride that I continue to revisit is the self-confidence and sense of accomplishment that I saw emerge within our learners. My passion for our learners of all ages is to KNOW that we believe in them and they can accomplish anything they choose. The journey and learning may not always be easy, but with the right support and guidance, learning how to persevere to achieve is the goal! I would hope that if you were to ask your child(ren) they would tell you, “Mrs. Riedl believes in me and I can do anything I choose.” Even better, the adults at MCA are passionate about the learning of our students and value them as learners. My favorite moments during the day are when our students come to the office to celebrate their learning, regardless of what it looks like!

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The Learning Community of Mill Creek will ensure that ALL achieve their fullest potential through challenging, purposeful learning opportunities where lifelong learning becomes a passion!

As we move into the 2019 - 2020 school year, I would love to challenge you to continue to set high-expectations with your students, encourage them to do their best each day at school, but mostly, show them how much you care about their learning progress. We truly have the best families in the St. Johns County School District and our students are the product of our wonderful learning community.

Our school theme this year is, "**Built to Last!**" As we continue to make changes to the facilities and new families join our MCA family, what NEVER changes is our relentless commitment to our students and their learning! As our vision states, "*The Learning Community of Mill Creek will ensure that **ALL** achieve their fullest potential through challenging, purposeful learning opportunities where life-long learning becomes a passion!*" I look forward to a year of celebrations as we continue to forge ahead in new learning. 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.
- If you have new neighbors or know of new families, please encourage them to register 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 and understand how to use the electronic registration process.

KINDERGARTEN MEET AND GREET: THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019 - 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

- Kindergarten families are invited to meet their teacher, visit their classroom, and gain important information presented by administration regarding the upcoming school year. It is highly encouraged that all families plan to attend.
- Students and families may begin in their classroom or may visit the transportation station at 6:00PM. All families will need to visit BOTH areas (classroom and transportation) during their visit!
- New Kindergarten families AND returning families are invited to attend an informational meeting with Mrs. Riedl, Mrs. Stackhouse, and Mrs. Ottosen at 6:45PM in the Mustang CAFÉ.

Additional Transportation Information: All Kindergarten students (even if your student(s) WILL NOT be a bus rider) should visit the transportation station to have their picture taken by a MCA staff member. All students at Mill Creek are assigned as a bus rider OR walker, however, due to our location we have very few walkers. These pictures are uploaded into Eschool, our computer software program, to help us identify students as we get to know them! This provides an additional layer of safety for our faculty and staff! Once fall pictures are taken, these pictures will be replaced by the student's fall picture!

ALL Kindergarten students will receive an email from their teacher by **Friday, August 2** with their assigned staggered start date. **Staggered start dates will be August 12, 13, 14, OR August 15.**

ALL KINDERGARTEN Students will start their first full day together on Friday, August 16.

1ST – 5TH GRADE MEET AND GREET: FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

- Last names beginning with **A - L - 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**
- Last names beginning with **M - Z - 10:30 - 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 Nights in September. Extended Day and Transportation staff will also be available for parents to gain information regarding these programs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEET AND GREET: FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

- **7th grade – 12:30 – 1:30 PM**
- **6th grade – 2:00 – 3:30 PM**
- AN INVITATION WILL BE SENT TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES BY JULY 19 WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS REGARDING MEET AND GREET.
- The Middle School Handbook and School Supply list are available online.

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION: FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019 - 10:00 AM

- Families are invited to the Café to attend an informational session with Mrs. Riedl 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: MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019 - 8:25 AM – 2:45 PM

- **Walking student to class:** We welcome parents in escorting their child to class **until Friday, August 23, 2019**. 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!
- **Visiting the CAFÉ:** We ask that parents **DO NOT** plan to visit their child during lunch until **Tuesday, September 3**. This will allow our CAFÉ Leaders to establish CAFÉ routines and behaviors with our students.
- **Class Assignments- Monday, August 5,** an email will be sent to 1st- 5th grade parents introducing your student's new teacher for the school year. **Emails will not go out before 3:30 PM.** 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 by Tuesday morning, please call the front office at 904-547-3720 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. As a reminder, there will be limited access to the building as we continue with facility updates. I just ask for flexibility in the next few weeks as some of our plans may be altered! Please contact the front office if we can assist you with anything in preparing for the new year.

ON THE HORIZON – NEW START TIME FOR MCA for 2019 – 2020 – We really need your help this year making sure that students are in their class by 8:25 AM. Warning bell will ring at 8:20 AM! School hours are as follows:

8:25 AM – 2:45 PM (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
8:25 AM – 1:45 PM (Wednesday, early release)

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

Sincerely,

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader

P.S. Don't forget about our summer reading challenge! We already have our celebration parties on the calendar! See the homepage of our website for more information.