



Pittsfield Public Schools
Williams Elementary School
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Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

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Principal
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Welcome Williams' students and families to the 2015/2016 school year.

I sure hope your summer was filled with fun, plenty of fresh air, and of course summer learning! As we move into the new year I would like to inform everyone that there are some changes to the faculty at Williams with some new teachers yet to be announced.

First, Mrs. Cady has moved to Allendale School and Mrs. Trager has moved from 1st grade to 3rd grade. We are still in the process of announcing our new teacher for first grade. Mrs. Hall has moved to another state with her family, and we are happy to welcome Mrs. Paul to our family! Mrs. Adams has retired and we are securing a teacher in her place. Once we have our new teachers settled, I will do a Connect Ed message to the students in those classes to announce whom they will have for their teacher. All of the candidates have been wonderful and our new faculty members are excited to meet your children.

We will also be welcoming some new paras to our school. One of the biggest changes that will be noticeable on the first day is that Mrs. Reardon has moved to Capeless School as their secretary. I am committed to finding someone that will have "Sherry's" energy and love for all of our students.

New this year:

**As you read in letter received earlier this month, each elementary student may receive one free breakfast and one free lunch per school day. Students who wish to buy 1 or 2 food items or an additional meal must have funds at hand: either cash or a sufficient positive balance on their meal account. No charging of additional meals or food items will be allowed. Breakfast is supervised beginning at 8:15 (for children not coming to school by bus), they will be dismissed to join the lines for entering school at 8:35. Children coming to breakfast should enter the side doors near the cafeteria. Students arriving to school by bus will enter the front main entrance and report to the café as soon as the bus drops them off. They will be dismissed to report to their classrooms before the tardy bell of 8:45.

**Also, we will be providing a school handbook in addition to the district handbook for quick and easy access for all rules and procedures for school. This handbook hopes to be delivered shortly after Labor Day.

Important dates to kick-off the year!

We will be hosting a whole school "Meet and Greet" on Friday August 28th from 2:45 - 3:15. This will include a bus ride for Kindergarten students. Our teachers will meet students outside in the front entrance area. However, this Meet and Greet will not be tours of the classrooms or school, it is just a simple smile to smile for everyone in our Williams community.

September 1 First day of school grades 1-5, 11:35 dismissal

September 2 First day for Kindergarten Students (11:35 dismissals through Sept. 18)

September 7 No School/Labor Day

September 17 Open House 6-7:30pm

September 25 Half day for all students.

Arrival and Dismissal Plans:

8:15 – 8:30 Breakfast arrivals at the café door on the side circle driveway.

8:30 - All other students arrive. There is no supervision prior to 8:30.

8:35 – Bell rings to enter the building.

8:45 – Marks Tardy. All students must be in their class BY 8:45.

Kindergarten and First Grade line up on front sidewalk.

Grades, 2, 3, and 4 line up on basketball court.

Grade 5 lines up on front sidewalk to the right of the library.

PLEASE refrain from parking in the school parking lot, as staff needs to be able to access the lot.

Handicapped spaces are reserved to those that have the right. Do not use them during arrival and dismissal.

DO NOT pass cars during car drop off or pick up.

3:11 Dismissal of Walkers: Walkers are dismissed from 3 separate doors. For those walkers heading towards Doreen Street, Bernard Street, Bushey and Williams Street, we will be exiting from the two cafeteria doors. One door is on the Doreen Street side towards the back of the building and the other is at the circle exit. We will call these doors, Doreen Exit and Williams Exit. Parents waiting to meet their children for the Williams exit please wait at the baseball diamond crosswalk and the children will be delivered to you.

Walkers heading towards the front of the school, Bushey, Alba Ave, Paula Ave, and Jayne Ave, will exit through the main entrance doors. If you meet your children for this exit, please stand on the sidewalk near the gate. This exit is the Bushey Exit.

The Front SIDEWALK and ENTRANCE is reserved for Williams Students and Staff only. The basketball courts are not open to play until dismissal is over. The front playground is available to children that are supervised by family; otherwise we expect all students and families to be exiting the school grounds at dismissal.

3:15 Bus Dismissal followed by Car Pick-Ups. Cars are not allowed to enter for car pick-ups until waved into the driveway and all walkers and busses have exited.

Busses will exit through the main entrance.

Car pick-ups will exit through the main and library doors at the main entrance, and students will be called when cars are identified. If you need to buckle your child in, please pull up along the front parking to do so.

Please DO NOT pass cars during car pick-up unless directed by staff.

Same plan for half-day dismissals at 11:35.

Please remember to bring to school your summer learning logs and your TenMarks online mathematics certificate if you participated in the Summer Learning activities.

We are all very excited to begin another year working together with you to have a wonderful educational experience.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me: lbuchinski@pittsfield.net.

Happy August,

Principal Buchinski

Remember to check our website for updates and supply lists, in case the one sent home in June faded in the summer sun! Williams.pittsfield.net