



Stearns Elementary School

75 Lebanon Avenue

Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Aaron M. Dean

Principal

413.499.9554 • Fax 413.499.9514

adean@pittsfield.net

August 10, 2015

Dear Stearns Families,

Welcome to another exciting school year at Stearns Elementary School! I am excited to begin year three as the principal and the staff is thrilled to share another year of learning together with your children. We have many tremendous learning experiences planned for your children in the coming year.

There are two new staff members to welcome to the Stearns family this year. It is my pleasure to introduce Alison McGee as our new Resource Teacher and Melissa Marchetti as our new K-2 Special Education Teacher. If you see them around be sure to say hello and welcome them to the Stearns community!

In further news, Ms. Sherman, our 2nd Grade Teacher has retired. We thank her for her many contributions to Stearns over the years and wish her the best in her retirement. Moving to take her place will be Mrs. Duma (formerly Ms. Haugh). We will be hiring a new person for 1st Grade. Once that hire is official, I will make a ConnectEd phone call to inform families.

The first day of school for grades 1-5 is quickly approaching -- **Tuesday, September 1, 2015**. Classes begin promptly at 8:45am, so please be sure your child is on time. Also, don't forget, the first day is a half day with an 11:35 am dismissal. For Kindergarten families --Parent orientation is September 1st at 9:30 and the first day for students is Wednesday, September 2nd.

For those that are new or those that just need a reminder, here is some information about the morning routines at Stearns. **Please adhere to these routines for the safety of our students and staff:**

At 8:30am, students begin lining up with their classes in the rear of the building. All classes enter the building when the bell rings at 8:40am. If students are eating breakfast they can be dropped off at 8:15am and should enter through the front door and proceed directly to the cafeteria. Otherwise, students should report no earlier than 8:30am, as there is no outside supervision until then.

Morning drop-offs between 8:30am and 8:40am need to occur in the back parking lot because busses are using the front circle during that time. Parents are asked to drive all the way to the end of the back lot before dropping their children, so we can avoid traffic issues on Lebanon Avenue. Once exiting the vehicle, students should move to the sidewalk and proceed to the back of the building to line up. There will be staff members stationed to guide students in the right direction.

Prior to the start of school information will be updated on the school website, <http://stearns.pittsfield.net>, so be sure to check there for updates and information. Also, feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns heading into the new school year. The most effective way to reach me this time of year is via email at adean@pittsfield.net.

Thank you for your dedication to your child's education and I look forward to another wonderful year at Stearns!

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Dean
Principal