

August 7, 2015

Dear Conte Families,

Welcome to another wonderful school year at Conte Community School! The first day of school is quickly approaching – **Tuesday, September 1st, 2015**. This school year marks my second year as principal of Conte, my thirteenth year in the field of education, and my fourth year in administration. I would like to share what an honor it is to be working with you, the children, and staff. A strong partnership between home and school is key in our mission of doing what is in the best interest of all students. This letter is filled with important information about the start of school and any changes at Conte this year.

Throughout this coming year, I look forward to meeting the new members of our community and connecting with returning community members. I encourage families to get to know each other so that we can build new friendships and support each other as the need arises. You will have an opportunity to meet new people and see old friends at Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the time when parents/guardians will meet in the classrooms with teachers and learn about grade level curriculum, projects, and expectations. Don't forget to join our Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC); the first meeting is Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

A few things to note going into the 2015-2016 school year: I have made some changes to teaching assignments and we are still in the midst of hiring. It is my pleasure to introduce the newest members of our Conte staff: April Carmichael, School Psychologist; Gail Bouknight-Davis, Special Education Teacher; Sam Barbarotta, Physical Education; Erin Tighe, Music; Kathleen Morrissey-Morini, Art; Carolyn Sibner, Science; Susan Sauve, fourth grade teacher; and Brendan Dillon, fifth grade teacher. We still have a few more openings to fill. Once our staffing is finalized, I will be sure to get a complete list out to you.

I ask that you review the Conte Community School Student and Family Handbook which will be available on the school's website. The handbook is written for both parents/guardians and students and I ask that you discuss it with your child. Hard copies will be coming home the first week of school. Another way to help our year go smoothly is to check out the Conte Community School website. This website will always house information you need to keep on top of for what's happening at school. Check it out!

We are ready to begin the 2015-2016 school year. The teachers have put a lot of time and energy getting ready for the year. Having spent a lot of time at Conte this summer, I was impressed to see the dedication of our staff, whether preparing for the upcoming school year or actively involved in summer programming. The staff, faculty, and administration at Conte are honored that you entrust us with your precious ones. The hours that your children are with us each day are so important. Here's to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Kerry Light, Principal

## **Important Information to Note**

- **A Pre-Kindergarten “Meet and Greet” will be held on Monday, August 31st from 4:45-5:15.** Families should bring their children so that they can meet staff, find their hooks/cubbies, join in a brief circle, and go outside where families & students can ask any further questions you may have.
- **Please note that the first day of school this year, September 1st, is a half-day for grades 1- 5, with dismissal at 11:35.**
- **Pre-K and Kindergarten schedules are a bit different than grades one through five. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Parent/Guardian Orientation is September 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **I am pleased to announce that Pre-Kindergarten will be going full day this year starting on 9/2/15.**
- **Half day for students in Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten on 9/2/15. Kindergarten will continue to remain on a half-day schedule. Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> is when Kindergarten will start a full-day schedule.**
- First grade through fifth grade students will begin the first day of school on September 1st by lining up according to class on the playground area. Please help your child find his/her classroomteacher. Teachers will hold up signs indicating their name and grade level. More specific details about exact locations will follow in a connect ed call as time gets closer. At 8:40 the bell will ring and students will move into the building with their teachers.
- School Breakfast and Lunch will be provided to all students at no charge this year. Breakfast begins at 8:20 a.m. each day. Students joining us for breakfast should enter through the main entrance.
- Breakfast is served for grades 1—5 from 8:20 – 8:40. Breakfast for students in Pre-Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten, and Kindergarten will be from 8:45 – 9:05 a.m. Please make sure your child does not arrive prior to 8:30 unless they choose to participate in the breakfast program that begins at 8:20. a.m. The reason behind this has to do with staff supervision and safety. At 8:30, students will report to their classrooms. Instructional time begins at 8:45 a.m.
- School pictures will be on Friday, September 18, 2015.
- South Atlantic Avenue is a one-way street. Families should turn on Pacific Street, take a left on to Taubert Avenue, and another left on to South Atlantic Avenue to pick up or drop off students at the gate. If you must pull into the school driveway (morning only), please park in the parking lot or single file along the playground curb. Do not double park, make U-Turns in the driveway, or park in the bus loading zones. No entry to the parking lot will be allowed in the afternoon!