



August 2022

Dear MSS Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer spending time with family and friends, relaxing at the beach or catching up on a good book.

Each summer I spend time reflecting on the school year that has passed and begin to plan for the coming year. I am looking forward to a very exciting 2022-2023 school year filled with learning, thinking and the exploration of new ideas.

Main Street School has a history of excellence. The route of our success lies in our rigorous programs and our talented staff and students. The challenging curricula enrich the daily learning experiences for students. All of our work will continue to be guided by, and connected to the District's Goals and Theories of Action, with a strong focus on the development of 21st century learners. All students at MSS engage in learning opportunities connected to global citizenship both within and beyond the classroom, including the ways in which we can appreciate our many identities and be makers of change.

Our science and social studies curricula offer our students opportunities for engaged, hands-on learning. Special experiential opportunities such as Philipsburg Manor and Ward Pound Ridge (fourth grade), and visiting the United Nations and engaging in a drama residency (fifth grade) enhance and deepen the daily learning in classrooms. At Open House on **Thursday, September 8**, classroom teachers will share additional information related to all curriculum areas and what you and your child can expect throughout the year.

Our foundation for character building is the habits of mind. The habits of mind are knowing how to behave with thought and intelligence when you do not know the answer. It means having a disposition toward behaving intelligently when confronted with problems, the answers to which are not immediately known. Examples of the habits of mind include persisting, thinking and communicating with clarity and precision, managing impulsivity, listening with understanding and empathy and thinking flexibly. Teachers integrate the habits of mind into their daily lessons. In addition, all classes engage in explicit lessons used to build community and are framed through the essential questions of our K-12 Character Education Framework, which includes the following essential questions:

- What is fair?
- What is ownership?
- What makes a community?
- How is inaction action?
- What defines who we are?

Students will also develop and participate in monthly assemblies related to character building. While the assemblies are for students and school personnel only, they present an opportunity for you to have a follow-up

conversation with your child at home. The link to the video of the assembly will be sent home, along with questions to guide a discussion, in *The Main Street School Scoop*.

The MSS school day begins at **8:50am** and ends at **3:15pm**. Students who travel by bus will arrive between 8:40am and 8:50am. Upon arrival, fourth and fifth graders should enter through the front doors where they will be guided to the cafeteria (4th) or auditorium (5th) to line up for the beginning of the school day. Students who do not travel by bus may enter the school after 8:40am. Please do not bring your child to school early, as we do not provide supervision for students prior to 8:40am. When picking up your child at dismissal, you should meet him/her/them by the main entrance; please do not wait for your child by the buses.

I strongly encourage you to set up a routine at home to make sure that everything needed on a particular day (homework, independent reading book, lunch, instrument, sneakers, etc.) makes it to school. I am asking for you to partner with the school in helping to develop responsibility and ownership in your child, which will ultimately lead to independence. Through our partnership, we can encourage students to internalize a routine that supports their coming to school prepared and ready to learn.

Enclosed, you will find a letter from your child's teacher(s). Please know that extensive time and care were given to the class placement process. **No changes to class placement will be made.** If in receiving your child's placement, it is not what you had hoped for, I encourage you to help your child to be positive, to look upon this as an opportunity to learn in a new situation, to think flexibly and to face the new school year with optimism and a growth mindset. Although this may be difficult, it will be beneficial to your child in his/her/their transition to the new school year.

You may notice that the letter from the teacher has two teacher names. This indicates your child is part of an ICT (Integrated Co-Teaching) team. This means that some students within the classroom receive special education services; the two teachers will support all children. Additionally, we have some students who are in a special class model for parts of their day and in an ICT class for other parts of the day. If this is your child's class placement then you will have two separate teacher letters. Class lists will be provided to families through the PTSA.

In addition, enclosed with this letter you will find:

- A letter to your child from me, including reminders about the Summer Writing Journal and a book recommendation slip for him/her/them to complete for the first day of school as well as a model that can be used as a guide.
- A letter from your child's teacher(s) to your child with a grade-specific supply list: Please review the list and send in the specific items requested on each of the dates listed.
- Forms to be completed and returned the first day of school:
 - ◆ MSS EMERGENCY DISMISSAL LETTER & FORM
 - ◆ DISMISSAL INFORMATION FORM GRADES 4 & 5
- Information from the Health Office
- Open House Invitation
- Save-the-Date- Main Street School Welcome Back BBQ
- A letter from the District Transportation Coordinator with instructions on how to log into the transportation portal. Any transportation related questions should be directed to (914) 295-5559.
- PTSA Information Forms

All of the forms that are sent home in this mailing are available online at the MSS webpage- *For Parents-Home/School Communication- Summer Mailing*.

Last year, the District moved to an online system for completing forms. Please keep your eye out for an email prompting you to log in and complete the required forms. These forms will include the review and sign-off of The Elementary Plain Language Version of the District's Code of Conduct, The Acceptable Use Policy and the Annual Notification of District Policies and Procedures and Consent to Release Personally Identifiable Student Information.

I am pleased to share that this year Main Street School is enthusiastic to welcome staff members to new roles within our school community:

- Ms. Fiol is our new school counselor. She is full time at MSS.
- Ms. Katz is moving from 5th grade to 4th grade.
- Ms. Donlon is returning from a family care leave to be the teacher for special class 4/5.
- Ms. O'Neill is returning to 4th grade from her family leave.
- Ms. Ruffler is joining MSS as an aide.
- Ms. Flynn is the 4th grade special education leave replacement teacher with Ms. Jones. Ms. Lee is scheduled to return from her family leave in February.
- Ms. Bisceglia is the new secretary to the principal and we are in the process of hiring her replacement in the main office.
- We are in the process of hiring a new 5th grade special education teacher in the ICT model with Ms. Rostkowski.
- We are in the process of hiring a new art teacher.

A complete staff list for 2022-2023 will be included in the initial September edition of the Scoop.

The Main Street School community is a place of heartfelt warmth where teachers, staff and parents all work together to create a safe and supportive learning environment for our students. One of our goals is to celebrate and maintain all the wonderful experiences that exist at Main Street School, while continuing to create a learning environment that embraces current educational best practices and research, and opportunities for all students.

As a community, it is important that we provide our students at Main Street School with a common message. As you prepare for the school year, please join me in encouraging your child to:

- Plan to make at least one new friend this year.
- Consider how he/she/they likes to be treated and make sure that he/she/they treats others this way.
- Keep an open mind and heart when it comes to learning.
- Think about what he/she/they knows about and what he/she/they would like to know more about.

There are multiple ways in which information will be shared with you this year. I will send a weekly newsletter, **The Main Street School Scoop** via email, and I will include links to any timely flyers in the same email. I promise not to bombard your inbox, but ask that you please review the weekly communication as it will contain important information. If for some reason you do not receive these communications please contact the main office. In addition, you can find school related news and information on our website <https://www.irvingtonschools.org/mainstreet>. Also, please make sure to 'like' the Irvington Union Free School District Facebook page as we frequently post pictures and information about happenings at Main Street School.

School will reopen for students on **Tuesday, September 6 at 8:50am**. I look forward to meeting/seeing you at Open House on **Thursday September 8** and also seeing you at the MSS Welcome Back BBQ on **Friday, September 16** (raindate: Friday, September 30).

The elementary years are a critical time of development for students and families and I look forward to working with you to make this school year successful. If you have any questions or would like to meet with me for any reason, please call Ms. Pat Bisceglia at 269-5212 to set up an appointment. I look forward to getting to know you and your child during the coming school year.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Chapnick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'C'.

Joyce Chapnick
Principal