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COLUMBIA SCHOOL SYSTEM
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April 10, 2018

Dear Porter Families,

It's that time again to start thinking about next year! But first, I would like to share some exciting updates with you for the 2018-2019 school year, and there will be more to come:

- Ms. Dawn Bedard and Mrs. Kristen Maltese will be the Math & Literacy Coaches/Interventionists
- Mrs. Kristen Bacon will be the Reading & Math Paraprofessional working with Ms. Bedard and Mrs. Maltese
- Mr. Anthony Gervase will be a 5th & 6th grade math teacher
- Mrs. Nerdia DelCastillo will continue to teach elementary Spanish and will facilitate the 7th grade French Language Pilot
- Mrs. Aliza Petrucci will be a 3rd grade teacher
- Mrs. Kat MacDonald will continue with elementary technology with Art and Mrs. Michelle Shive will also teach technology next year to middle school students and Art classes
- The middle school will have teachers assigned in some new roles as well; Mr. Gervase as mentioned above, Mrs. Jan Denley as grade 6 LA, Mrs. Tammy Ekstrom as grade 5 LA & math, Mrs. Carla Croteau as grades 5&6 Science, Mrs. Dolores Marcous as grade 5&6 SS & grade 5 math, Mr. Criag Huntington as grades 5,7&8 SS, Ms. Brigid Keenan as grades 5&7 LA, Mrs. Pat Whitman and grades 6&7 math, Mrs. Brooke Kleinman as grades 7&8 science & grade 5 math, Mr. Hetherington as grade 8 math and Mrs. Munoz as grade 8 LA.
 - As shared in my presentation at the end of last year, the middle school become more flexible in teaching assignments to best meet the needs of the middle school student and to offer great additions to the school day.
 - As you may have noticed this year we have added and will continue with the Habits of Work. Chorus has been added to middle school music classes. We will be offering Project Oceanography (more to come on that soon!), and a 7th grade French Language Pilot.

In the works...

- 2 elementary school teachers – currently working on the grade levels and the teacher who will be fulfilling these spots
- Currently a Kindergarten Paraprofessional

For these three positions, two will be posted to be filled once we have prepared the exact positions that need to be filled.

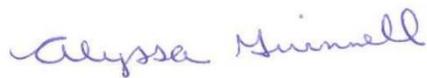
On another note, quarter 4 signals the time in the school year when teachers and administrators begin to turn partial attention to preparing for the opening of school in September. Every year between April and June we assume the responsibility of assigning students to classes for the next academic year. The task of formulating the most well-balanced, heterogeneous classrooms is a challenging and difficult endeavor. In brief, the classroom teachers at each grade level meet to create the class lists for the next school year. They take into consideration such things as learning styles, boy-girl ratio, academic growth potential, reading and math achievement, friendships, behavior, special education needs, peer interactions and other related circumstances. The lists are cross-checked by Special Education and Related Arts staff and then submitted to me. I then review the lists for overall composition and then assign a classroom teacher for the next school year.

Although we are sensitive to the parental desire to request specific classroom assignments, I write to emphasize that we do not subscribe to this practice. We have found that requests of this nature have seriously complicated, if not rendered impossible, our job of creating heterogeneous classes. I ask for your understanding in fairness to all the children and families in our school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Many Thanks,



Alyssa Gwinnell, Principal