



Spring Branch ISD
Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.

August 8, 2019

Dear MDE Parents,

On behalf of the Pony staff, a warm welcome back to everyone! My summer was filled with laughter and joy as I spent time with family and friends; I hope yours was too. My college-aged children came home for a visit, a real treat of time for my husband and me! We also hosted relatives from Norway and we were sure to show them our Texan hospitality.

The books have arrived! We are excited to have over 600 new books per English Language Arts/Reading classroom. These books accompany the comprehensive K-5 literacy curriculum (Lucy Calkins Units of Study (<http://www.unitsofstudy.com/>) for writing, reading, and phonics. I am very grateful to our staff members who invested in professional training this summer to prepare for this year of learning. In addition, through our library-lending program, 50 for Families, numerous MDE families have been reading up a storm all summer long! Good for you; I cannot wait to hear about your favorite stories!

Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for Every Child. Our district T-2-4 goal, a technical degree, a 2- or 4-year college degree, may sound like a distant objective. However, we begin with the end in mind, and the journey towards lifelong learning and personal excellence starts at MDE. We believe in personalizing our students' learning such that every MDE child will be challenged, engaged, and loving school.

We are excited to see everyone walk through our front doors in just a few days. This 2019 – 2020 school year is off to a great start! We are excited to welcome three new teachers joining our MDE teaching staff:

- Mrs. Brooke Tolar is joining the Second Grade Team, with Mrs. Shepherd's Retirement. Mrs. Tolar has a Master's Degree with a focus in Reading and Dyslexia. She has received training in Lucy Calkins Units of Study curriculum.
- Ms. Carson Bell is joining the Fourth Grade Team, with Ms. Lauren Smith joining the Fifth Grade Team. Ms. Bell is an MDE alumna and had a long student-teaching experience teaching fourth grade math and science. We love that she wanted to return to serve the community!
- Mrs. Andrea Gilmore is joining the Fifth Grade Team, with Ms. Bourquein moving out of the area. Mrs. Gilmore has experience teaching English Language, Reading, and Social Studies. She

Memorial Drive Elementary

11202 Smithdale Road, Houston,
Texas 77024

Phone (713)251-6300 •
Fax (713) 251-9659

Kathleen Jeremiassen, EdD
Principal

Every Child

Collective Greatness

Collaborative Spirit

Limitless Curiosity

Moral Compass

Dr. Jennifer Blaine
Superintendent of Schools

955 Campbell Road
Houston, Texas 77024
www.springbranchisd.com
Phone (713) 464-1511
Fax (713) 251-9186

has received training, as well as teaching experience, in Lucy Calkins Units of Study curriculum.

We also have some new teaching partnerships this year in third through fifth grade. We call this “blocked-teaching,” meaning:

- Third Grade-
 - Mrs. Sekimoto (English Language/Reading/Social Studies) will block with Ms. Bett (Math/Science).
 - Mrs. Lincecum will be Self-Contained.
- Fourth Grade-
 - Mrs. Mozisek (English Language/Reading/Social Studies) will block with Ms. Bell (Math/Science).
 - Mrs. Smalling (English Language/Reading/Social Studies) will block with Ms. Lindsay (Math/Science).
- Fifth Grade-
 - Mrs. Skaggs (English Language/Reading/Social Studies) will block with Ms. Deans (Math/Science).
 - Mrs. Gilmore (English Language/Reading/Social Studies) will block with Ms. Smith (Math/Science).

Please look for your child(ren)’s teacher assignment in the mail. We look forward to you joining us at the Meet and Greet on Wednesday, August 14:

- Pre-K through Second Grade – 8:00 to 8:30 am
- Third through Fifth Grade – 8:45 to 9:15 am

We are pleased about the work that the school and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) have planned for this year. Our PTA president, Christan Fuqua, along with the executive board, have been working with the school administration and staff to coordinate a spectacular school year. Please follow the PTA on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MemDrivePTA/>) and on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/memorialdrivepta/>) and MDE on Twitter (@MDEsbisd) and Instagram (MDEsbisd).

I look forward to strengthening and building relationships with you, as we provide your children an emotionally, socially and physically safe place to learn and grow. Together WE Rise!

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Kathleen Jeremiassen, Ed.D.
Principal, Memorial Drive Elementary
kathleen.jeremiassen@springbranchisd.com
713-251-6300