

# James Monroe Elementary School

1501 Grove ● Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

(734) 759-5800 ● Fax (734) 759-5809

<http://monroe.wyandotte.org>

Vicki Wilson, Principal



August 25, 2020

Dear families,

I am so happy to welcome you back to school. The 2020-2021 school year will be a wildly adventurous school year ~ a year of innovation, opportunities, and creativity for students, staff, and families. This year will call us to be patient, resilient, and problem solvers. Much of our year will look and feel different than what is familiar to us in education. Please join me in being excited about this. It is through challenges and discomfort that we grow and become better. More than ever before we are going to need work together, solve problems creatively, and give each other grace. I am so happy to partner with YOU for the journey this year.

School starts September 1, 2020 at 8:00am online. We will be in remote for the first month of school with the hope that we will resume face to face instruction in October. A decision will be made closer to October as COVID numbers are evaluated during the month of September. When we do return there will be many precautions in place for the health and safety of our students and staff. I can't wait to bring the children back to our school. We truly miss them.

**Your child has been assigned a teacher for the first trimester.** One of the innovative solutions to the challenges this year is to have fluid class assignments by trimester. Some of our Monroe families choose the virtual academy option and some of our Monroe teachers have taken on the role of being a virtual academy mentor. Each trimester, families can leave the virtual option and return to school based just as you can also leave the school-based option and choose the virtual academy for trimester 2. In the event there is a large influx of student changes at a trimester, we will have to potentially bring back additional teachers/sections at Monroe and reassign children. If our numbers stay stable at the trimester change, there will be no changes. This is a big unknown until the trimester change on November 13<sup>th</sup>. It was important to me share how this will be handled with you in advance so that you can start to wrap your head around the idea of teacher assignments being by trimester rather than the whole year. It is certainly possible your child will have the same teacher for all three trimesters but it is not a guarantee. This is an example of the creativity that will push our out-of-the-box thinking this school year. I promise you that with every difficult decision, I will put what's best for our student population as a whole first and foremost.

**All school documents and emergency contacts are to be completed online this year prior to September 1st.** This is in place of the hard copy Emergency Cards we have used in the past. In your packet, you will find a parent portal cheat sheet that will walk you through this process. **It is critical that you update all information on the parent portal and include multiple emergency contacts.** This is how you will receive school and district related news and information. Our emails are sent out through this system. If you have a fifth grader, you will be prompted to fill out forms for 1:1 Chromebook assignment for your child. Each year, fifth graders receive a new Chromebook that they will keep and use through the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to receive their new Chromebook, they must return any device they borrowed in our closure last spring and have all the required forms filled out on Parent Portal.

Please tune in for our virtual back to school night on August 27<sup>th</sup> hosted by your child's teacher. You will use the zoom link shared by your teacher to join the session. Session start times are staggered as follows:

5:00pm – 5:30pm ~ Young Fives and Kindergarten

5:30pm – 6:00pm ~ First and Second Grades

6:00pm – 6:30pm ~ Third Grade

6:30pm -7:00pm ~ Fourth and Fifth Grades

As always, thank you for being our educational partner. I appreciate you so much!

Respectfully,

*Vicki Wilson*  
Principal

