

August, 2023

Dear Parents and Families of Cos Cob School,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I'm very excited to be starting my second year at Cos Cob! Last year was an amazing whirlwind for me, having moved to the elementary level after a 20+ year career in secondary. That shift, coupled with learning a whole new student body, new families, a new staff and new curricula provided me tremendous opportunities for professional and personal growth. I'm so grateful that my path (albeit the scenic route) brought me to Cos Cob and really look forward to hitting the ground running this year.

In the spring, Mr Steven Groccia was hired to fill the permanent role of Assistant Principal. Steven brings a strong background in elementary education and has been working tirelessly to get to know the ins and outs of Cos Cob School. He is very eager to meet everyone in the next few weeks!

This summer, Steven and I have spent a lot of time reflecting about ways that Cos Cob School can better serve and support all students. During this process, we've looked at myriad data points, including state and district assessment scores and survey results from students, families and staff. We've also reflected upon anecdotal evidence of what worked for our school last year and what may not have worked as well. We found that the students of Cos Cob enjoy and look forward to walking through our doors each day, that our dedicated teachers and staff put students first and are committed to the success and growth of your children and that parents are extremely supportive of the work we are doing and feel welcomed as partners in their children's learning. Nevertheless, we recognize that despite this great success, even a great school in a great community has plenty of room to grow and we look forward to embracing this opportunity this school year.

Once again, Steven and I are glad to welcome you all to the start of a great school year. We pledge to work in partnership with all families to ensure that all children enjoy a safe and successful year at school. We appreciate the continued support of the community and hope that you will assume an active role in your child's educational journey.

The contents of this handbook have been very useful in answering questions for all our families. If you have additional questions or unique problems or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff members included in this handbook. The Cos Cob School staff welcomes any inquiries should you have additional comments or concerns that are not addressed here.

Sincerely,

Kerry Gavin and Steven Groccia