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I.S. Families,

As we prepare for student placements to be released on Thursday, August 1, 2024, I want to share some information with you that will help you understand your child's schedule/classes.

In grades 3 and 4 you will see a different teacher's name other than your child's homeroom teacher on their schedule. This is because the I.S. is carrying out a departmentalized approach to Science and Social Studies instruction this year. Two teachers will pair up. One will teach Science and the other Social Studies. Students in homeroom groups will switch classes on a scheduled rotation to receive instruction in both subjects. This is largely due to the new Science Standards and finding dedicated time in our daily schedules to ensure instruction is being carried out in both Science and Social Studies on a regular basis. There is one homeroom group in both 3rd and 4th grade who will not be departmentalized for Science and Social Studies. These two homerooms will receive Science and Social Studies instruction from their homeroom teacher.

In grade 5, we are taking a different approach to Science and Social Studies instruction. Mrs. Snook will be the "stand alone" Science and Social Studies teacher for 5th grade. Each homeroom class will rotate to Mrs. Snook for Science and Social Studies instruction which will take place on a rotating schedule (one unit of Science then a unit of Social Studies). Mrs. Snook will not have a homeroom class.

In grade 5, we also have two sets of teachers who are departmentalized for ELA and Math. These pairs are Mrs. Fontana and Mr. Alexander and Mrs. Roush and Ms. Hoffmaster. If your child is in one of these teachers' homerooms they will rotate between the pair of teachers for ELA and Math instruction as well as go to Mrs. Snook for Science/Social Studies instruction. If your child is in Mrs. Snayberger or Mrs. Miller's class, they will stay with their teacher for both ELA and Math instruction while going to Mrs. Snook for Science/Social Studies instruction.

Mrs. Roush and Ms. Hoffmaster are our two new 5th grade teachers this year. They are both looking forward to their first year at Mifflinburg I.S. on the 5th grade team. Mrs. Roush is coming to us from a neighboring district with several years of teaching experience at the Middle School level. Ms. Hoffmaster graduated in the spring, so this will be her first teaching experience. However, she has subbed at the I.S. during extended college breaks for the past two years and has done a nice job.

In 4th grade, we have one new teacher, Mrs. Carey. Mrs. Carey graduated in the fall of last school year and spent the spring with us at the I.S. as a long-term sub in both grades 3 and 4. She did a nice job during these experiences. Mrs. Carey is excited to have her own classroom and is looking forward to working with the 4th grade team and the students in her classroom.

Ms. Raker will be our new Autistic Support teacher at the I.S. Ms. Raker is very excited to join the I.S. team and to work with our students. Ms. Raker has several years of experience working

with exceptional learners in both Pennsylvania and North Carolina. I am excited to have her on our team.

A lot of time and consideration goes into making class lists. I work with a team to make sure we are looking at each child to ensure they are placed with the best teacher to meet their needs and learning style. Please do not reach out asking if your child can be moved to another classroom. Moving a child is not an easy task because it creates a ripple effect across several classes. We have excellent teachers at the I.S., all of whom want to support all students and help them be successful.

Our Back-to-School night is Aug. 14th from 6:00 – 8:00. During that time, I will meet with 3rd grade families to carry out an I.S. orientation. All families will be able to visit their child's teacher and classroom to learn how to be successful this school year. Be looking for a back-to-school flyer with more information. It will be shared soon.

I am excited for a new school year. I look forward to meeting our new students and families as well as reconnecting with our 4th and 5th grade students and families. Enjoy the rest of your summer because our first day of school, August 21st, will be here before we know it.

Your Partner in Education,

Philip Heggenstaller