

Good Morning Lewis & Clark Families ~

I hope you are enjoying your summer and able to take a trip to the lake, camping, traveling, hiking, bike rides, Farmer's Market, patio get-togethers, Splash, the Carousel, and all the other wonderful opportunities we have right in our backyard! It has been so nice to embrace the sunshine, family and friends, and our beautiful Montana adventures!

Although I know you are still enjoying summer, I know you are also thinking ahead a few weeks about 'what the year will look like', and have some questions. I will have more information in the following weeks as I return to the office. In the meantime, here are a few updates.

Enjoy the rest of summer, despite the smoke. Hopefully the rain will continue to come, providing some reprieve. Fingers crossed!

Take care and I will be in touch soon,

Alanna Vaneps
Principal Lewis & Clark Elementary

Computer Student Information Program Change

MCPS is transitioning to a new student information system. We will be using Infinite Campus (IC) and no longer using 'Q'. Unfortunately, as this transition occurred the beginning of July, most student contact information did not transfer. This means we are individually inputting data on each student across the district, which will take beyond the start of school with about 9000 students.

This also means, many email addresses are NOT correctly in our system yet and as I communicate, many families may not receive emails. PLEASE help me by checking in with friends and neighbors to see if they are receiving updates. If they are not, have them contact the office or email Angie Tranel or Shannon Orr, and we will get them included asap! Thank you!

Staff Updates

- **Mr. Wyatt** is joining the Specialist team in HPE
- **Mrs. Harper** is joining the 4th grade team
- **Ms. Vasquez** is joining the Kindergarten team
- **Mr. Cosca** is rejoining LC as a teacher on the Resource team
- **Ms. Hottowe** is joining the 2nd grade team
- **Ms. Bergstrom** is joining the 2nd grade team
- **Mrs. Sharkey** is returning to LC on the 1st grade team
- **Mrs. Aldrich** is returning to LC on the 1st grade team
- **Mrs. Meurer** is our new Academic Specialist
- Please welcome **Brandy Gillespie** as our new Behavior Specialist
- Please welcome **Samantha Orr** as our new 2nd grade teacher (job share with Mrs. Henderson)

Class Lists

- Will be posted on the front door **Monday, August 9th** (by 4:00 p.m.)
- Class lists are finalized and unfortunately, requests for changes are unable to be made. In order to balance student needs across classrooms and ensure we can provide what all students need,

there is an extensive process involved and takes many hours. One shift impacts multiple circumstances.

- Please help me honor our process and trust your child is in good hands with our staff.

School Supply Lists

- LC website: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4372>
- Scroll down from the home page and there is a link to grade level school supply lists

1st Graders who attended MOA as a kindergartener

- Welcome to Lewis & Clark! We are excited to have you join in-person learning this fall. Since your student will be entering LC for the first time this fall and did not get the opportunity to experience kindergarten round-up in the spring, the 1st Grade Team will be contacting you to set up a school visit before school begins. You and your student will get to meet your child's teacher, see the classroom, and take a little tour. Our goal is to support your child's transition to in-person learning and answer questions you may have.
- We realize there are other students who will be new to LC as well or may benefit from a tour. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office. We are here to support your child(ren)'s experience at Lewis & Clark. We will also have Open House Sept. 8th for all families to visit the school, classroom, and meet staff.

Beginning of School

- Monday, August 30th
 - **Kindergarten ONLY**; half day – no bussing available
 - 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 31st
 - ALL students K-5; full day
 - 8:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- School day hours --- NEW!!
 - Mon-Wed, Fri -- 8:15 – 3:15 ALL students K-5
 - Thurs (early out) -- 8:15 – 2:30 ALL students K-5

Save The Date

- Open House/Ice Cream Social – Scheduled for Wednesday, September 8th (time – TBD)
- We look forward to seeing you after such a long time without families in the building! You will have time to visit the building, your child(ren)'s classroom and head outside to mingle and enjoy some ice cream.

COVID – 19 Updates and Masks

- You should have received an update from Dr. Watson with regard to the return to school. In case you haven't had the time to read through it, here are a few key areas he discussed. While indoors and while on MCPS transportation (Beach or other):
 - Face coverings are required for all students, staff and volunteers or guests, regardless of vaccination status.

- Face coverings are not required when outdoors.
- Face coverings are not required while eating/drinking.
- In some circumstances, staff may lower face covering while teaching, presenting, speaking or providing directions as long as they can maintain appropriate distance (6ft) from others. This decision will be left to the discretion of the individual staff member. However, face coverings should be used when working with small groups or individual students.
- When working alone, not with students or not with members of the public, staff may remove face coverings.
- To be determined by Staff, there may be opportunities for students for routine “mask breaks” throughout the day, if appropriate distancing can be maintained.
- For details regarding face coverings (types and proper use), MCPS follows the CDC guidance titled: [“Your Guide to Masks.”](#)
- Final decisions and protocols will be made at the MCPS Board meeting on **Tuesday, August 10th 6:00 p.m.** This is a virtual meeting. You can access the link on the MCPS website calendar: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/2#calendar1/20210806/month> (click on the 10th, then click on the meeting and the Zoom information will appear)
 - You may also provide written comments for the Board to consider, using the following email address: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org*
- Dr. Watson’s DRAFT plan: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSal9U_w4cnVlviO5KywbA9C37j_jmqPSLvTLVMXd_pgHEttHPsXzOFjFlt_rZiMrLwmYir907CkkO/pub?urp=gmail_link