

August 9, 2019

Dear Beverly Farms Elementary School Families,

It is hard to believe that July has come and gone and we are already at the start of August. As summer rolls by far too quickly I hope that all of you have had the chance to spend time with your family and friends. I was lucky enough to travel to my hometown a few weeks ago and spend several days sitting on the beach catching up with my family and re-energizing for the new school year and my exciting new position as acting principal.

Traveling home to my small little beach town always reminds me of how important the community was in supporting me throughout my school years and into adulthood. As I walked down Main Street every few steps someone would greet me and express how excited they were for me and how proud they were with all I had accomplished on my path to acting principal. All of these neighbors, former teachers, and family friends provided me with confidence and support throughout my life. My goal as acting principal is to create a school community that provides every child with those same feelings of confidence and support. I believe that every child deserves a community that believes in them and builds their capacity to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. In elementary school we are the building blocks that will hold them steady throughout the years, and allow them to overcome any obstacle that may stand in the way of achieving their dreams! I look forward to starting the school year with the excitement of new beginnings. A beginning where we welcome new families and staff to our community, celebrate our continuing families, and work together as a community to continue our tradition of excellence for all students!

Please join me in welcoming our new Assistant Principal Mrs. Kendra Jeffers:

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I have become a member of the Beverly Farms Community! I am so honored to serve in my role as the Assistant Principal, and I am looking forward to assisting Ms. Swerdzewski with making a great school year.

I have been in the education industry for about 17 years in which I have served as a college administrator, school counselor, Special Education Needs Coordinator, and ESOL Teacher. I am a veteran of MCPS for eight years where I was a school counselor. Education and helping others achieve their goals are my passions.

A little about myself, I am originally from Florida, and I have resided in the DC-Metro area for over 20 years with my husband of 15 years and our 10-year-old son. I have earned my Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences and my Master's in Education with a specialization in Guidance and Counseling. The decision to become an administrator came from my desire to make a broader positive impact on an entire school.

I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you and learning with and from you. Please know I have an open-door policy to help support you and focus on what is best for our students.

~Kendra Jeffers

We know that the only thing that is constant is change, but with change comes new possibilities! Therefore, I wanted to update you on a few staff and curriculum changes for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

Staff Updates

Mrs. Mac, Mr. Collins, Ms. Kendall, and Mrs. Foley, all bid a fond farewell to Beverly Farms Elementary School. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors!

Mrs. Andelman is joining the second grade team this year, Ms. Allen will be returning to the fourth grade team, and Ms. Smiley is moving into a first grade classroom position.

We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to the Beverly Farms Community:

- Ms. Fox is joining the Kindergarten team
- Ms. Wagner is joining our fifth grade team
- Ms. Fell is our new instrumental music teacher
- Mrs. Whitney is joining the third grade team
- Mr. Miller will be our new music teachers
- Ms. Johnson is our new special education teacher

New Reading/Language Arts Program – Benchmark Advance

We are excited that our school is using a new Reading/Language Arts program this year, Benchmark Advance. This program addresses key shifts in curriculum and instruction to meet the demands of the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. All students will have opportunities to engage with complex grade level text. Every student will receive a consumable text in a magazine-like format which is designed for them to write and annotate the text. Each book will be used for three weeks. After three weeks of reading and working with the texts in class, students will bring the annotated book home, which can then be used for independent reading. The texts in each unit are topic-centered and include social studies and science content, along with literary subjects such as point of view, theme, and character.

Students will continue to receive small group instruction to support them with the grade level texts, as well as read texts on their instructional reading levels. Writing instruction will include lessons that support process writing and writing in response to reading. Students will engage in word study including phonics, spelling, and vocabulary through reading and writing.

Students will also have online access to many curriculum materials including e-books with audio and digital tools, to help students meet higher standards and achieve success. We look forward to sharing more information about this new Reading/Language Arts curriculum at Back-to-School Night and parent meetings throughout the school year.

For more information [click here](#)

Information for the beginning of school

During the week of August 26th all students will receive a post-card notifying them of their teacher assignment. If your postcard does not arrive before sneak peek just call (240-740-0200) or stop by the main office!

Sneak Peek

It has been a busy summer and leadership, grade level, and building service teams have been working tirelessly for the start of school on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. To prepare both students and families for this special day we will host our annual Sneak Peek on Thursday, August 29th from 10:00-11:00 am for all students and parents. Sneak Peek is a chance for families and students to meet their new teacher, explore their classrooms, and catch up with old and new friends. We are excited to see you there!

Kindergarten Back to School Night

On Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 pm we welcome all kindergarten parents to join us for Kindergarten Back to School Night. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the staff, and find out the answers to frequently asked questions related to all the new and exciting experiences your child will have during their Kindergarten year.

Important Dates:

Wednesday, August 28th – Students receive post-cards with teacher assignments

Thursday, August 29th 10:00-11:00 AM – Classroom Sneak Peek

Thursday, August 29th 6:30 PM – Kindergarten Back to School Night

Thursday, September 12th 6:30 PM – Grades 1-5 Back to School Night

Sunday, September 15th 5:00 PM – PTA Back to School Picnic

In closing, I wish you all the very best as you enjoy the last few weeks of summer. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the community to create a positive learning environment that allows all students to feel challenged, have fun, and find success throughout each school day!

Best Wishes,

Laura Swerdzewski

Laura Swerdzewski
Acting Principal