

August 4, 2017

Dear Silver Hill Families and Staff,

Summer is flying by, and we just finished up another Summer Reading Camp. I'm not making this up, but yesterday as we were having our ice cream party celebration, several of the kids asked if they could keep coming! Kuddos to our summer school staff, Daniela Murphy, Colleen Wezesa, Kate Quigley, Phil Zuber, Paul Corriveau, Kat Giarrusso, Meeghan Quintal, and Sara Sanchez for making learning fun, even in the summer!

Our custodians, Rene, Mike, and Karen have been very busy getting ready for another school year, and the school is looking great. They are an amazing crew, who take such pride in keeping our school beautiful for our students and staff. Rene always takes my "Could you please do me a favor" requests with a smile. Teachers have been coming and going, getting rooms ready for another school year. Whoever said that teachers have their summers off never knew a teacher! It takes a lot of planning and prepping to be all set for another successful school year!

We will be welcoming some new faces to our school family this year. Sandra Green is our new Assistant Principal. Sandy is currently the lead teacher at Greenleaf, and I have heard wonderful things. I am very excited to welcome her as my partner on the administrative team! I know that when she gets settled, she'll send out an informational letter. Sandy will be at school August 14-17 if families and staff would like to come by and extend a warm welcome before school starts. Deb Tucker and Marcella Blake will be joining our grade 2 team. Both are veteran teachers who transferred from Greenleaf School and are excited to be at Silver Hill. They will be sending home letters of introduction soon! Our new Math Coach is Jennifer Donais. Jen holds licensure as an elementary teacher, middle school teacher, and special education K-8. She is joining us from Nettle School where she was a classroom teacher and math interventionist, and was the recipient of the Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Jen's Mom is a principal in the district, so she's coming from a family of educators! Our new Social/Emotional Behavior Teacher is Colleen Staples. Colleen is certified as an elementary teacher as well as special education. Colleen has extensive experience in social-emotional curriculum, instruction, and family support, and is currently completing coursework to take the BCBA board exam. Most recently Colleen was at Nettle School as their Behavior Specialist/Lead teacher for the Student Support Center. She was also the school's PBIS coach, and will fit right in with our ROARS theme! Don Gartner is joining us as our physical education teacher. Don was my PE teacher when I was a principal in Lowell, and I am happy to be working with him again! Don holds a BS in Physical Education and a Masters in Education Theory and Practice. He has been a Varsity Ice Hockey Head Coach, and is currently coaching at a younger age level. Don comes from a PBIS background and is excited to help out with our recess games and give out his Golden Sneaker Award! We have interviewed a wonderful candidate for the grade 5 position, and as soon as her nomination is approved, I will send out information to those families. I am looking forward to our new staff bringing their energy and expertise to Silver Hill, and a new school year that continues in the tradition of collaboration and excellent instructional practices at Silver Hill!

I know there have been some anxious moments with the upcoming transition. You have my promise that Silver Hill Horace Mann Charter School stays as such this school year. Superintendent Scully has stated that all students will remain at Silver Hill through grade 5. Silver Hill is a wonderful school because of our students, families, and staff. That will never change. We will continue to do our very best to make

sure that all children who come through our doors receive the very best educational experience that we can provide. They are all Haverhill kids, and the diversity they bring to our school combined with the school community's support of our staff and programs will stay at Silver Hill. The name Horace Mann Charter may go away, but the commitment to our students, the love and caring that is felt throughout our school, and the feeling of belonging to a school family will not go away. We ARE Silver Hill, and we believe in the gift that every child brings to our school.

I am looking forward to a new school year....each one brings new adventures! As always, I will keep you posted with my Weekend Update, and through the school website. <http://silverhill.haverhill-ps.org> We are already planning dates, so check out the ones below!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, be safe, and we'll be back in the school routine before we know it!

Always,

Margaret

Planning Ahead:

August 21, 4:00-5:00 – Open House for New Students and their families in Grades 1-5 – Followed by the Annual All School Picnic from 5:00-7:00!

August 28 – Staff Returns

August 29 – First day for students in grades 1-5

August 29, 30, 31 - Staggered start for kindergarten. Letters with dates have been mailed home

September 1 – Early Release for grades 1-5, No school for kindergarten

September 5 – We're ALL back to school!

September 11 – Picture Day

September 13 – Open House – Grades K,1,2, 5:00-6:00 Grades 3,4,5 6:00-7:00