



# West Parish Elementary

## **The Gloucester Public Schools**

*Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, life-long learners*

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Dear New and Returning West Parish Families,

Welcome to a New Year at West Parish! I have heard so many kids and adults say they can't wait for school to start this year; I love the excitement for learning and growing! I am so looking forward to seeing West Parish students, new and returning next week.

New families, my hope is that you will quickly come to love and become involved in this school community. This spring and summer we have conducted a number interviews and candidates often ask the question, "What makes West Parish special?" and I always let interview team members answer this question and the answer was always "The People." I couldn't agree more, the entire West Parish staff (teachers, support staff, cafeteria and custodians) does SO many things above and beyond their job descriptions to support the students and each other that West Parish School community is truly a special place for both children and adults!

Thankfully this summer was not quite as eventful as the previous summer! We are finally in our forever home! Teachers' have been in throughout the summer organizing their instructional spaces into warm, welcoming and safe environments for your children. A special thank you goes to Lois Lane, our school secretary and our four custodians who have ensured our school looks fabulous and is ready for our students to arrive. As always, West Parish teachers were busy learning this summer. We will be beginning the year with revised curriculum maps in ELA and Math due to the work of teacher teams over the spring and summer. In the weeks ahead you will receive information about new software we are using to support learning in all areas of the curriculum that you will also be able to access with your child at home.

We have had a few staff changes this summer. Interview teams, made up of teachers and support staff, worked with me to identify new staff members who will help West Parish Students become well-rounded, confident learners who strive for and achieve academic excellence! I am pleased to share with you our new staff members:

**Jillian Amero Gr. 2 Teacher**  
**McKayla Catto Gr. 3 Teacher**  
**Noelle Cormier Gr. 4 Teacher**  
**Molly O'Donnell SPED Teacher**

**Maryann Aiello, ESP**  
**Dianna Cuhna, ESP**  
**Kathy Reis, ESP**  
**Theresa Dennehy, ESP**

**Karen Williams, ESP**  
**Lisa Curcuru, Cafeteria**  
**Theresa Leaman, Cafeteria**

### **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten students will ease into the school year. Starting with a Popsicle Party this Monday from 3-4 PM, families may drop off their school supplies in the classroom on the way to the party in the Science Park. Half of the Kindergarten students come to school on August 30<sup>th</sup> and the other half will come on August 31<sup>st</sup>. This allows teachers to build relationships with each child on their first day and

introduce students to the routines of school in a small group. If you received the *Purple “Nuts and Bolts of Kindergarten”* your child comes to school Wednesday and if you received the *Pink “Nuts and Bolts of Kindergarten”* your child begins Thursday. All students attend school September 5<sup>th</sup>! For any families who did not participate in the Kindergarten screening in May your child should be scheduled for a screening appointment on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. If you do not know your time please call the office on Monday (978) 281-9835.

**Arrival and dismissal** procedures are the same as last year. Having students take the bus to and from school is highly recommended. It is very important that you make every effort to have your child arrive at school before 8:50 as this is the time when we will be bringing students to their classrooms. **If you arrive at or later than 9:00 you will need to park and bring your child into the school building to sign them in.** Please note that there is no parking in the school parking lot during arrival and dismissal. (Please see the transportation letter for more details.)

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Parent Teacher Organization for their work in supporting students and staff. The officers are as follows Rachel Refalo, President; Liz Ciolino, Vice President; Leanne Ciaramitaro, Treasurer and Kristen Rattray, Secretary. We have so many volunteers working with our students and teachers that were I to try and list them all I would definitely miss MANY, therefore thank you EACH for your work it makes West Parish the community we all love!

I am looking forward to a wonderful year, please contact me at any time with ideas, questions or concerns or just to introduce yourself!!

Warmly,  
Dr. Telena Imel  
Principal

PS. If you are in need of specific information, (Transportation, School Lunch, Before School Program, etc.) please check the district website or the “Back To School” page on the West Parish website.