

STEDWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Ms. Galit Zolkower, Principal

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/stedwicks

August 1, 2023

Dear Stedwick Families,

I am delighted to welcome you to a brand new year filled with endless possibilities and exciting opportunities for our children! I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark on another year of learning, growth, and shared experiences.

On behalf of the staff I want to extend our warmest greetings and heartfelt appreciation for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your precious children. We understand the immense responsibility that comes with this privilege and assure you that we are fully committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment that promotes academic excellence, character development, and overall personal growth.

To that end I would like to celebrate the nearly 200 rising Kindergarten through fifth graders who participated in ELO this summer. The school building hummed with activity for the month of July. **I want to give a huge shout out to Mr. Snyder and Ms. Stephenson** who as lead administrator and program coordinator ensured that our summer program ran smoothly. Many thanks to other Stedwick staff members who supported students:

Ms. Sarakesetrin	Ms. Barry
Ms. Nwoye	Mr. Racosky
Ms. Gutierrez	Mr. Harris
Ms Harps-Piper	Ms. Cotton
Ms. Moran	Ms. Morrison
Mr. Pelzer	Ms. Mitchell
Ms. Portillo	Mr. Parnell
Ms. Ortiz	

Communication and partnership with parents are vital in creating a successful educational journey for our students. We encourage open lines of communication, and our doors are always open for any questions or concerns you may have. We value your involvement and look forward to working closely with you to support your child's growth and success throughout the year. To help facilitate and coordinate community outreach, Stedwick has been named a community school. As a result, we will have access to more resources that will support all members of our community.

As is often the case, a number of staff members made the decision to retire or to pursue new opportunities at other schools and offices in MCPS. We were sad to say farewell to the following members of the Stedwick community:

Ms. Margarita Bird-Buendia	Ms. Jan Shortall
Ms. Patty Bush	Ms. Kayela Shortall
Ms. Marice Cote	Ms. Margie Snipes
Ms. Leslie Dent	Mr. Ryan Winger
Mr. Kevin Eaton	Ms. Inshirah Jawarish
Ms. Vivian Malloy-Taylor	Ms. Andrea Schawaroch
Ms. Laurie Mccarty	Mr. Matthew Levy
Mr. Barry Duvall	Ms. Louise Carrigan
Ms. Sarah Martinez	

I would also like to welcome our new staff members as well as those staff members who are returning in new positions:

Ms. Dimuthu Priyanga Mack	Kindergarten
Ms. Rochelle Frenche (formerly Johnson)	Grade 1
Ms. Melissa Martinez	Grade 1
Ms. Haley Webb	Grade 2
Ms. Megan Barrow	Grade 3
Ms. Donna Blakely	Grade 3
Ms. Natalia Morrison	Grade 4
Ms. Madison Bertha	General Music
Mr. Joe Grundy	Physical Education
Ms. Laura Mir	Media Specialist
Ms. Aline Logbo	Staff Development
Ms. Sarah De Leon	Math Content Coach
Ms. Anne Moran	Counselor
Ms. Britt Waterfield	Reading Intervention
Ms. Latechia Mitchell	Restorative Justice/Behavior Mngmt. Coach
Ms. Grecia Albarracin	Community School Liaison

At the moment we are still conducting interviews for a grade 5 teacher-we want to be sure we select someone who is a good fit for our school.

Please hold two dates:

- Friday, August 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m.- our annual Open House when students will be able to meet their new teachers.
- Thursday, September 14, 5:00-8:00 p.m.-our annual Back to School Night. This year we will be parnteriing with Montgomery Village MS and Watkins Mill ES to offer a back to school fair. More information will come home about this during the first week of school.

We also recognize the importance of a safe and inclusive environment for all of our students. Our school policies and practices prioritize the well-being and emotional welfare of each child,

promoting kindness, empathy, and respect. We strive to create a community where everyone feels valued, accepted, and supported.

As we embark on this new year together, let us celebrate the joy of learning, the power of growth, and the boundless potential that lies within each child. We are excited to witness their progress, milestones, and achievements, and we feel privileged to be a part of their educational journey.

Once again, welcome to the new year! We eagerly anticipate the adventures that await us, and we are confident that with your continued support and partnership, this year will be one of growth, joy, and success for all our students.

Warm regards,
Galit Zolkower
Principal