

August 2, 2011

Dear North Chevy Chase Families,

The construction of the new gymnasium is underway, five new portable classrooms have arrived and are ready for occupancy, a new security system has been installed and the staff is all in place and ready for another exciting school year to begin! Whew, what a busy summer it has been for us here at NCC. As summer comes to a close I hope that you have enjoyed your summer months and have had an opportunity to rest and relax before the start of the new school year. I have enjoyed my summer and managed to get some rest and relaxation but I am anxiously awaiting the start of my second year at North Chevy Chase.

We have been busy this summer making plans and getting ready for an exciting and fantastic new school year. There have been a couple of changes to the staff and I would like for you to please join us in welcoming several new staff members to join the NCC family. Mr. Craig Powers and Ms. Gillian Weinberg are the newest members of the sixth grade team, Mr. Powers will be teaching Spanish and Ms. Weinberg will be teaching Reading and English. Mr. Powers also works as the Spanish Teacher at Gaithersburg Middle School where he has taught for the past four years. Mr. Powers has a Masters of Arts Degree in Latin American Studies from Tulane University and a Masters of Arts Degree in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University. This is Mr. Powers' second career, having previously worked on foreign policy issues on Capitol Hill and elsewhere in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Weinberg is coming to NCC from Poolesville High School where she taught tenth and eleventh grade English last year. Previously, she taught at Silver Spring International Middle School where she was a Literacy Coach and Academic Intervention Teacher. She earned both her B.A. and M. Ed in English Education at Rutgers University.

Mrs. Jin-Ru Lin is our new Media Assistant replacing Mrs. Immerman who retired in June.

Other changes include, Mr. Sprankle, who will now be teaching full time Mathematics and Physical Education to our sixth grade students. Ms. Vicino will be teaching fifth grade Mathematics and Science and Mrs. Cichetti will join the fourth grade team teaching Reading/Language Arts and Science. Ms. Uzupis will now be teaching third grade.

Security

Our new security procedures dictate that all exterior doors remain locked at all times. To gain entry into the school, you must beep into the office using the button to the right of the front door. Listen for the soft click of the door to open it. You will need to present an ID to sign into the office computer. These two new initiatives still have some occasional problems so we appreciate your patience as we ensure the safety of all children in the school.

I hope I can count on you to support our efforts to maintain a safe and focused learning environment at all times. For the safety and security of all students, I am asking that parent "kiss and say goodbye" at the front breezeway door. Anytime adults are in the building they must sign in at the office. We discourage drop-in visits to classrooms as it may disrupt instruction; however, planned or volunteer visits are encouraged. If you have any questions or concerns to address with the teacher, please send a note, email, call or schedule a conference with him/her.

OPEN HOUSE

This year's "Open House" for students and their parents/guardians will be Friday, August 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This will be an opportunity for students to meet their teachers and find their classrooms. The Open House will be informal. Teachers will be available to greet parents and students, but will not be discussing programs at that time. A more formal presentation will occur at Back to School Night Tuesday, September 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Class lists will be posted on the windows near the main office.

If you are unable to attend the Open House, please contact the school for the name of your child's teacher. Members of the PTA will be on hand to distribute information at the Open House so please make certain you stop by their table.

Student Placement

A great deal of time was spent creating the best student placement for instruction. All returned profile sheets and letters regarding information about your child were read and considered prior to placing children in classes. We have a capable and caring staff who will work with you to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of your child. Please do not request that your child's placement be changed at this time.

First Day Procedures

School Doors open at 8:40 a.m. Students will report directly to their classroom and line up in the hallway outside of their classroom door. Please do not drop off students before 8:40 a.m. *All third and fifth grade students will line up in the AP Room where their teachers will meet them and escort them to class. Fourth and sixth grade students will line up in the hallway directly outside their classroom door.*

Daily Procedures

Morning Line up

Please help us provide a safe environment for our students. Supervision of children is not available before or after school; therefore, students should not arrive before 8:45 a.m. or remain after 3:45 p.m. unless they are participating in a school-sanctioned activity under the direct supervision of a staff member. Children will line up inside the school in their designated hallway starting at 8:45 a. m. The students will report to their homeroom classes at 9:00 a.m.

Bus Arrival Procedures – Bus Loop

Buses enter and exit the driveway on Jones Bridge Road. Cars **ARE NOT TO ENTER** the Bus drop/off and pick up area in the front of the school. If your child rides the bus, please allow your child to begin riding the bus on the first day of school. It is beneficial for children to establish a routine from the first day. It instills confidence and minimizes confusion.

Student Drop Off

With the construction of the new gymnasium, there is a new traffic pattern at NCC. This year in particular, there will be very limited parking. Children **should** walk or ride a bus to school. Parents choosing to drive their child to school should drop students off across the street on Jones Bridge and allow the crossing guard to safely escort them across the street. All must follow these rules.

School Lunch Prices

The prices of school lunch are as follows:

	Regular Price	Reduced Price
• Breakfast	\$1.30	\$.00
• Lunch	\$2.50	\$.40
• Milk	\$.60	\$.60



SNAP, a prepayment program will continue at NCC. New students will receive a PIN number on the first day. The PIN Number for returning students will remain the same.

Student Performance

The 2011-2012 school year holds the promise of NCC Elementary School continuing and building upon a Tradition of Excellence. This summer, our school's leadership team worked diligently and collaboratively to ensure that we will provide ample opportunities for students to learn, achieve and excel at high levels this school year. When examining the newly released MSA data for the 2010-2011 school year, you will find that we have achieved and exceeded our goals in all areas. As a result, we made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is designed to measure the continuous improvement of schools each year towards No Child Left Behind.

The state of Maryland measures academic progress each year by administering the Maryland School Assessment, and the Alternate Maryland School Assessment (for students with disabilities), for elementary schools. In the area of Reading, 95% of our students scored at the advance or proficient level. The goal for all schools is 81.4%. In Mathematics, 90% of the students scored at the advance or proficient level with the goal being 77.7% .

Our fifth grade students took the Science MSA, 93% of these students scored advance or proficient. To review this data in its entirety, you can visit the website at www.mdk12.org under School Improvement in Maryland. Congratulations to all our students and the entire staff for all of their hard work!

Mark your Calendars NOW!

Open House

Friday, August 26, 2011 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

First Day of School

Monday, August 29, 2011 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

PTA Back- to- School Night

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The dates for grade level "Parent Coffees" are listed below. All Coffees will be held in the Media Center from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Come meet the principal, Counselor, and other members of the NCC staff and enjoy coffee and conversation.

Third and Parents New to NCC – Friday, September 2, 2011

Fourth – Friday, October 7, 2011

Fifth- Friday, November 4, 2011

Sixth – Friday, December 2, 2011

We look forward to another great school year where we will continue to *Maximize Potential One Child at a Time*. May this year be filled with rich, diverse, meaningful opportunities which have been carefully shaped and directed for our children. I look forward to working with each of you this year. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas or thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 657-4950.

Sincerely,

Ms. René D. Stevens
Principal