



Waite Park Community School  
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Rochelle McGinness  
Principal

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Dear Waite Park Families,

I want to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. I am excited to be starting my sixth year as the Principal at Waite Park Community School! Given the current circumstances regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the beginning of this school year will look very different than any of us have experienced. We will begin this year in a Distance Learning format in which students will receive their instruction through a digital platform. I fully acknowledge the difficulties this may present for families, students, and staff and am committed to supporting all of you through this “new normal.”

I would like to take this opportunity to announce our new staff members:

- Office Specialist- Jennifer Ennen
- Kindergarten-Taylor Phimister
- Second Grade-Bea Rendon
- Music- Kelsey Stotz
- SEA- Paul Dennis
- SEA- Nicole Holt

Thursday, September 3rd we will host our Back to School event from 2:00pm-7:00 p.m. This will look different than our typical Open House given it will be completely outdoors. We are committed to keeping everyone safe and healthy during this event. Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic all participants will be required to wear a face mask and follow proper social distancing protocols. We are also committed to following the Minnesota Department of Health, as well as, Minneapolis Public School’s guidelines for hosting this type of event. Please see below for more information on how to safely attend our “Walk-Through Open House.”

**Schedule by First Letter of Last Name**

2 - 2:30 <b><u>A - B</u></b>	2:30 - 3 <b><u>C - E</u></b>	3 - 3:30 <b><u>F - G</u></b>	3:30 - 4 <b><u>H - I</u></b>	4 - 4:30 <b><u>J - K</u></b>
4:30 - 5 <b><u>L - Mc</u></b>	5 - 5:30 <b><u>Me - P</u></b>	5:30 - 6 <b><u>Q - Sm</u></b>	6 - 6:30 <b><u>Sp - T</u></b>	6:30 - 7 <b><u>U - Z</u></b>

We ask that you only attend during the time allotted for your last name. This event will be held out back on the field by the playground. There will be one entrance and one exit to this event. We ask that families sign-in at the check-in table under the big white tent and drop off any registration forms or paperwork you may still need to turn in. Then, proceed to the table your teacher is at and pick-up your Distance Learning materials. Your last stop will be at the device distribution station. We then ask you proceed to the exit in a

timely manner so we are complying with the allotted number of guest allowed. Again, please wear a mask and practice proper social distancing.

If your child is going to be a third grader, we ask that you return your iPad to the school on the Tuesday prior to Open House, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at our new main office entrance (atrium). If you have signed up for a Chromebook, your student will receive it at Open House a few days later. ***Students of any grade who have NOT yet been contacted about receiving a device for their student should contact the main office as soon as possible at 668-1600 to let us know if you need to be added to the list.***

Tuesday, September 8th is the first day of school for all First through Fifth grade students. High Five and Kindergarten students will start on Thursday, September 10th. You will receive a postcard in the mail from your teacher shortly. As a staff, we are committed to continuing our adult learning and will support Minneapolis Public Schools core priority areas: Equity, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Literacy. All staff will participate in professional development in regard to the District's priorities and will continue professional learning throughout the school year through a digital platform.

I want to thank you all for your commitment to the Waite Park community and our vision and mission: The learning community at Waite Park envisions a safe welcoming school that achieves excellence in a dynamic diverse learning community. We will achieve this through strong connections to a trusting and supportive community; high expectations for instruction and learning; nurturing and positive relationships; students making connections with real world learning. I look forward to another fantastic school year!!

Sincerely,

Rochelle McGinness  
Principal