

Dear Lower School Families,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year and ready to jump back in and connect with you all again soon. Building connections is of the utmost importance to me, and I am looking forward to our time together. I plan to send out communication often to keep everyone updated on Lower School information. You'll find my information posted in the weekly newsletter, The Wildcat Weekly, or as direct messages sent from me.

This summer, I worked alongside the rest of the Woodside Administration Team (Steve Frank, Marta Battle, Jenn Pedersen, and Harlin Hansen) to begin planning for our return back to school. I am immensely grateful for this team, as we continue to navigate the updated health and safety protocols and how to maximize our students' academic experience. In addition to planning for the entire school's return, the Lower School staff and I will be making plans for our TK-4th grade community to ensure this school year is full of lifelong memories. As I've said in the past, our teaching teams are the best educators I've ever had the pleasure to work with. Our students are in such capable and exceptional hands. I am one lucky principal! In addition to the amazing teachers, I am equally grateful for the families of Woodside. You all welcomed me last year as a first year principal, and I am honored to continue my work for you and with you. I am looking forward to growing our partnership.

Information for the 2021-2022 School Year:

- **New Lower School Staff Member:** Please join me in welcoming our newest Woodside Lower School staff members:
 - Angela Ryland - Fourth Grade
- **School Schedules:** This year we will operate on a more traditional school schedule.
 - TK-K: 8:25 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (8:25 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. until October 1st).
 - 1st-8th: 8:25 a.m.-3:10 pm. (2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays)
 - *The first day of school is a minimum day for all students - 8:25-12:30 p.m.*
 - Recess and lunch will be at the same time across the entire school.
- **Teachers:** All students will be able to see our Specialist teachers throughout the year on a regular basis.
- **First Day of School:** We are so excited to welcome your child on the first day of school. The first day of school is a minimum day schedule for all students (*dismissal at 12:30 p.m.*).
 - Please be sure your child has at least two masks packed with them.

- At this time, we are not able to welcome parents/guardians on campus. Please refer to the information sent out by Superintendent Steve Frank regarding Drop Off and Pick Up procedures.
- **Parent Information:**
 - **TK and Kinder Parent Meeting** on August 13th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Please see the Wildcat Weekly for the Zoom link.
 - **Principal-Parent Check-Ins** will be scheduled throughout the year in an effort to keep lines of communication open. Look for more information soon!
 - For all other school information, please refer to the Wildcat Weekly. If you are not receiving those weekly emails, please contact Elvira Martinez.

I hope the information in this letter has been helpful in preparing for the first few days of school. I recognize the importance of my role as one of Woodside's school leaders, and know that I acknowledge the responsibilities and tasks that lie ahead. I am firmly dedicated to immersing myself fully into our school and community. As we near the start of the 2021-2022 school year, I will continue to support our teachers, our students, and families to ensure we are all successful. As I said last year, we are in this together, and together we are a strong community. I look forward to the first day of school and seeing all of your children after a nice long summer break. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you wish to share with me.

Warm regards,
Melissa Bowdoin
Lower School Principal