

Blue News



August, 2011 Notes for the First Day

FACES AT THE BLUE SCHOOL

Mrs. Claire Cochran is returning as the head teacher/administrator/arts specialist at the Blue School for her seventh year. She received her undergraduate degree from Johnson State College and her MEd from Lesley University. She holds certifications in elementary education, art and administration.

Mrs. Cochran's philosophy of education is one of strong academic preparation integrated with the arts and technology.

Mrs. Pat Davis is returning as inclusionary assistant. Mrs. Cindy McLaren is returning as guidance counselor. Mrs. Denise Cartwright RN is returning to keep us healthy as nurse and health instructor. Madame Chickering is returning to teach French. Penny Abel will be delivering the grub.

New faces this year will be Mrs. Diana Leddy as co-teacher and special education teacher. Mrs. Susan Picknell will be our librarian, and Sensei David Badurina will be instructor for Karate. Welcome to the Blue School Learning Community, folks.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Our first day of school is Monday, August 29 at 7:45... Breakfast will be served from 7:10-7:30. Breakfast costs 1.10 with extras being added to that amount. Lunch will be served at 12:00 for grades K-3. Kindergarten has a choice to stay for recess (until 11:30) or leave at 12:30 after lunch. We need to know ahead of time though. Lunch costs 1.50. Additional milk is .35 and juice .60. **Please return the free/reduced lunch information that you will find the first day on the second day of school.** Free/reduced rates do not apply to snack milk. There are more details about payment in the school handbook that you will receive on the first day. **School is dismissed at 2:45.**

DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP

In an effort to keep the children safe at drop off time and picking up time, please follow the following routine:

*An imaginary crosswalk will extend from the front/side doors, along the grass line next to the flag, to the corner of the pavement. Please drop your children off at the designated corner of the pavement. They will enter the school using the side door. **Children will be allowed to leave with their ride when their ride presents themselves to the adult in charge.***

If you are visiting and need to park, please park along the school fence, *not in the yard.*

NO IDLING POLICY

We have a new 'No Idling' policy, as do other schools. Do not leave vehicles idling near the school house, please!

LOTS MORE PAPERWORK IN THE BACKPACK ON DAY 1 THAT NEEDS TO BE RETURNED DAY 2!

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

Each child will need to bring:

- A backpack not to exceed, when filled, more than 10% of his/her weight,
- **A change of clothing** (in case of accidents) and shoes/slippers to wear in the classroom. **No outside shoes can be worn in the classroom.**
- **NO TOYS AND OTHER EXTRAS.** At home toys and electronics stay at home as well as other things.
- **Please do not send pencil boxes with all sorts of goodies in them.** They tend to turn into distractible toys!
- **A healthy snack and that's all!**

THURSDAY FOLDERS

Best practice in education is a hands-on approach. Research tells us that all children learn best when the methods of teaching are directed to the multiple intelligences. There will be few paper and pencil activities. What papers and notices that there are will be sent home on Thursdays in the "**Thursday Folder**". **Please check backpacks.** In the collection in the Thursday Folder, there will be the Blue News and comments about how your student is doing. **That report needs to be signed and returned on Fridays in the blue folder.** The Thursday Folder encourages weekly communication between school and home. The Blue News will be sent electronically to those that provide us with their email addresses. If you are not receiving it, please let us know ASAP.

Concerns, Complaints, and Questions

There may be times during the school year that one of the '2C+Q' issues will come up. Please adhere to the following '2C+Q' procedure:

1. **Approach the Head teacher/administrator.**
If that doesn't work,
2. **Approach the Superintendent, Mr. Paul McMillan at the SAU office, 444-3925. If that doesn't work,**
3. **Approach the school board last.**

HOMEWORK...Very Important

Students have homework most every evening. When they do, we expect that it will be done. There are consequences if the homework is not done and returned the next day. They will be expected to read every evening at least 10 minutes. *Books will go home and need to come back the next day because they will be used for instruction. Parents will be called to bring the books in for the day's instruction. Please don't make us call you!*

Math facts every evening for grades 2 and 3 are a must, also. We do Mad Minute everyday!
Nightly practice makes the children successful.

I need to talk to Mrs. C!

Please call before 7:00 a.m. or after 2:45 p.m., but before 5:00p.m., unless it is an emergency. This should eliminate frequent interruptions during class time and give the teacher time to talk with you.

Collecting

Campbell's Labels
Box Tops

Book orders (see the order for due date)

Up-Coming Events

School Pictures, Sept. 7 (rain date Sept. 8)
Blue School Community Meeting; Sept.17; 10:00
NECAP Testing (Gr.3), week in Oct. TBA
Fall Open House TBA

Healthful Snacks

In compliance with Federal Law and our required Wellness Policy, we have to encourage the children to bring healthful snacks to school. Please, try to send fruit and veggies for snack. Please, no junk food or soda!

Blue School Handbook

You will receive a copy of the handbook on the first day of school. Please read it and discuss it with your little one. We live by the handbook! Also, please sign the slip that states that you read and discussed it with your child.

123 Magic

We use the 123 Magic regimen for discipline. All of our staff has been trained in its use. It truly is magic!

Library

Please return library books every week!

Children will not be allowed to take books out until books are returned.

VIBS

Volunteers **I**mpacting **B**lue **S**chool can have such a positive impact on the school community. There are many opportunities and things to be done. Please let us know what and when you would like to be involved.