

August 10, 2021

Dear Families of China Middle School Students,

I hope your summer is going well and that you have had the opportunity to enjoy special times with family and friends. Before you know it, it will be time for the opening of the 21-22 school year! The anticipation of the first day of school was always something I looked forward to when I was a child, and still do as an educator. I hope your child is also looking forward to a new school year. For those of you that are new to our school, I want to assure you that your child is coming to an absolutely welcoming and wonderful place. Our teachers and staff are passionate, caring and hardworking. They are continually learning and growing as educators for the benefit of your child. They have been preparing their classrooms for a new school year that will be engaging, meaningful and rigorous!

I am sure that you have all been watching the latest updates from the Maine CDC and Maine Department of Education for their recommendations with the opening of schools. Superintendent Carl Gartley will continue to keep the RSU #18 community informed of the decisions that are being made for our district.

I am excited to introduce the following new staff members to China Middle School: Lillian Friars (7th & 8th grade Social Studies), Christina Bell (5th – 8th grade Special Education), Elizabeth Chellis (Instrumental/Music Teacher), Josephine Schiebel (5th & 6th Grade ELA/Social Studies), and Linda Duplessis (Nutrition Site Supervisor/Head Cook). We are so fortunate these individuals chose to join our amazing staff.

Please see the attached information about who your child's **homeroom teacher** is this year and details on our annual **Open House**. We will be holding our Open House outside on the playground. Please find your child's homeroom teacher for an individualized student schedule, locker assignment and the packet of annual forms. **These forms should be completed and returned by Friday, September 3rd.**

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 1st for grades K through 5 only! We have a full day of activities planned for the 5th grade students to become oriented with the middle school. **The first day of school for grades 6 – 8 will be Thursday, September 2nd.** Our school hours are 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. If you are planning on transporting your child this school year, please follow these procedures: **Drop-Off is 7:30 – 7:55 a.m. and pick-up is 2:30 – 2:40 p.m. at the front entrance of the building.** The access road on the north end of the building will still be used for parents that are transporting students to the China Primary School. However, due to safety reasons, middle school students should only be dropped off and picked-up at the front entrance of China Middle School.

The Transportation Routes are posted on our RSU #18 website (www.rsu18.org). Please check this site for your child's bus driver and pick-up time. If your child will be attending a daycare or an alternate place (other than your house) before or after school, please notify Tina Strout at 445-1500 or tstrout@rsu18.org, so that transportation is arranged appropriately.

We would like to invite and encourage you to become involved in your child's education and our school. The PTO is an active group of parents and educators that meets regularly the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please consider getting involved in this important organization. Your active participation and support is an essential component for the success in your child's education.

We are looking forward to a positive and productive year. Our dedicated and committed staff will do their best to ensure that your child feels welcomed in a safe and accepting environment. It is important to us that your child feels safe so that he/she may have a successful year of learning. We do not take it lightly that you entrust your child to us every day. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Lois Bowden

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