



SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

134 Warrenville Road • Mansfield Center, CT 06250 • (860) 423-1611 • Fax (860) 423-0610
Web <http://www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast>

LAUREN RODRIGUEZ, *PRINCIPAL*

August 5, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your summer vacation and getting (almost) ready to return to an exciting new school year at Southeast. For any new families, we welcome you to our committed community and we look forward to getting to know you. We hope you will join us in helping Southeast to continue to grow. For all our returning families, I am happy to continue working with you and your child/children this year.

Many of you know that I take some time off in the summer to be with my family. I enjoyed time in Maine - it was my first time to Bar Harbor and it won't be the last! It was simply breathtaking in every direction. I also traveled to see my family at the New Jersey shore, an annual trip. Besides for vacation, I have been developing some plans with district administration to support reading and writing workshop in the classrooms this year. This is our second year of writing workshop implementation, and our first year of reading workshop for third and fourth graders. Kindergarten through second grade will continue their practices for reading workshop, book bags at the younger grades, and guided reading in first and second grade. I look forward to sharing our work with you through my blog and my bi-monthly newsletter column.

Southeast School has three staffing changes for this year. Mrs. Kelly Villar will be moving from third grade to second grade to help reduce class sizes. We also welcome a new special education teacher, Ms. Julie Hurlock, who transferred from Goodwin School after numerous successful years there. Lastly, we hired Ms. Kate Smallidge as our music teacher. Ms. Smallidge is a veteran teacher transferring from Union Elementary School in the Farmington School District. She is graduate of UConn and Eastman School of Music, has received numerous prestigious music awards and honors, and was referred by seven professionals as "the most amazing music teacher I've ever seen. You are very lucky." I am excited for the children to meet her, share her joy of music, and watch our music program bloom.

Please mark your calendar for the following beginning of the year events:

First Day of School (K-4) and Opening Ceremony – August 31 at 8:55 am
First Day of Pre-School – Sept. 1
Ice Cream Social – Sept. 2 at 6:30 pm
Open House - Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm

For safety reasons, please use the parking lot on the side of the school as there will be no parking in front of the school. The entrance to the driveway in front of the building will be blocked off once all the school buses arrive.

Please note that we are still hoping for parents to step forward to fill the PTO President and Vice President roles. We have many helpers, but no one who has volunteered yet for these important leadership positions. I remain hopeful and appreciative of your consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time. Enjoy the remaining summer days ahead. I hope you find time to do the last thing on your "fun summer" list.

Sincerely,



Ms. Lauren Rodriguez, Principal

Lauren.Rodriguez@mansfieldct.org

860-423-1611

A special SE community note:

There is a great veggie stand at Mrs. Hanka's house on Mulberry Road. She is donating all the money raised to the Demi Fisher Fund, one of our third grade students who has been receiving cancer treatment for the past two years. Please consider stopping by.

MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LAUREN RODRIGUEZ
PRINCIPAL



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MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
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August 5, 2016

Dear Southeast Star;

I hope my letter finds you enjoying a joyful summer. I hope you have traveled to someplace new, met a new friend, helped around your home, and read several new books. Have you been writing, too? Sometimes keeping a journal about your travels or writing a new story can be a fun way to capture your thoughts. Whatever your choices may be, I hope you know how excited we are to see you in a few weeks to see how you have grown, or to meet you for the first time.

Did you know that we have a new music teacher? Her name is Ms. Smallidge. She is excited to make music class fun for everyone. We also have a special teacher named Ms. Hurlock who will work with Kindergarten through Second Grade students. Please introduce yourself when you see them.

Your first day of school will be Wednesday, August 31st. We will meet at the playground area when you arrive at school. Please look for your teacher's name on a sign and join your new class. When everyone has arrived you will be directed to our Opening Day Ceremony, which I hope will be outdoors behind the playground. Your teacher will take you to your classroom after the celebration to begin your day.

To help get our year started, I would like you to **draw a colorful picture** about reading for the first day of school. Draw a picture of yourself reading your favorite book in your favorite reading spot. Please be sure I can see your face, the book title and author, and remember to put your name and grade on it so I can display it throughout the school! If I was doing mine, I would be reading a book named Siddhartha by Herman Hesse in my hammock. Thank you for your help!

Enjoy the rest of your vacation!

Love,

Ms. Rodriguez
Ms. Rodriguez, Principal