

MOUNT ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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Jeff Grillo, M.A. Ed.

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Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff at Mount Arlington Schools, I am happy to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! Hopefully, the summer has provided you with many memorable opportunities to spend time with family and friends. I anticipate an exciting year as we collectively strive to foster a culture of learning. I feel extremely fortunate to be working with such an exceptional group of students, families, and staff members.

We have worked very hard to prepare for this school year, and we believe that our students will have a rewarding educational experience. Teachers and administrators have taken advantage of many professional development opportunities throughout the summer to improve practice and leadership. We successfully welcomed new teachers, new students, and incoming kindergarteners through fun and engaging orientations. Our IT department worked tirelessly to update and install new teacher computers, Smartboards, iPads and Chromebooks.

Throughout the summer, K-4 teachers worked diligently and successfully revised the Standards-Based Report Cards to make them more user-friendly for students and parents. The enhanced standards-based report card will better reflect a student's growth in specific skill areas, as learning is a process not a product. A student's performance will be measured in a variety of ways, including home and class work samples, small group and individual conferring notes, projects, and lesson and benchmark assessments. Teachers can provide you with detailed information about your child's relative growth in specific areas of content and mastery of learning. This also helps teachers tailor education to each student based on needs while students are now able to meet year end goals at their own pace.

Something different this year for MAPS students in grades 3-8 is a new master schedule. We will no longer be running block scheduling with alternating A/B days and have reverted back to a more traditional Monday-Friday schedule. This schedule will allow students and teachers the same amount of instruction time for all subjects. Additionally, a daily enrichment period has been built in specially to provide students extra support and individualized assistance in the areas of academics, study skills, and organization.

I would like to remind students to be sure to complete their summer reading assignments before the beginning of school. Parents are reminded to update their Honeywell Instant Alert contact information and to check the website regularly for announcements and upcoming events. Parents and students will have continued access to the Homework Portal through OnCourse and Study Island Test Preparation websites.

Please mark your calendars for the following fall events:

- **Back to School Night (MAPS) - Thursday, September 20th, at 7:00 PM.**
- **Back to School Night (DECKER) - Thursday, September 27th, at 7:00 PM.**

I certainly look forward to seeing you at these and other events during the school year. Please enjoy the remaining days of the summer, as we eagerly anticipate another fulfilling year of meaningful learning experiences for our students. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Grillo
Principal