August 31st, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are very pleased to welcome your child to Kindergarten at Nelson Elementary. Our full day Kindergarten program offers young children meaningful learning opportunities in a play-based environment. For many children, Kindergarten is the first step in transitioning from preschools, daycare settings, or home environments to a formal school setting where there is one adult with up to 20 children.

In order to help children in this transition, we offer and support a **gradual entry** process, which includes smaller groups, an increasingly longer day and an opportunity for you and your child to have a virtual *Welcoming Conversation* with your child’s teacher. We have found that this proactive approach to school entry provides a safe and comfortable start to your child’s school career.

Gradual Entry allows children to connect with their teacher, feel comfortable at school, make friends, and understand routines. If you believe your child requires a longer period to transition to a full day Kindergarten program, please discuss this with your child’s teacher so that school staff can collaboratively plan with you to ensure your child is successful.

In response to COVID-19, the K -12 Education Restart Plan is currently in Stage 2. In Stage 2, Kindergarten students attend in-class instruction five days per week. We really appreciate your understanding as we adjust our regular Kindergarten format to provide a safe and successful start for your children.

Our Kindergarten Team will be hosting a **“Welcome to Our School Kindergarten Orientation” on Sept. 10th and Sept. 11th from 1:30 -2:30 at school.** Weather permitting, this will take place on our lower field. In the case of inclement weather, there will be an alternate indoor activity planned. We are asking that only **one parent/caregiver** attend the orientation with each student in order to keep group sizes relatively low. For the orientation, we will be dividing our new Kindergarten families alphabetically according to last name. **If your child’s last name begins with letters A- L - please attend the orientation on Thursday, Sept. 10th. If your child’s last name begins with letters M-Z- please attend the orientation on Friday, Sept. 11th**

**Upcoming for Kindergarten**: Our Kindergarten Team will be contacting you to arrange a virtual **“Welcoming Conversation”** via Zoom. This is where we can meet your child and learn about what will make their transition to Kindergarten successful. You can also expect a schedule to come out for **“Gradual Entry**” before the end of the week.

We are looking forward to having your child as part of our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Hamilton and the Nelson Kindergarten Team

