

August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we prepare for the opening of school on Tuesday, September 5, I am honored to be part of the school community and privileged to serve as the principal of the Edgartown School. I pledge to continue Edgartown's commitment to foster a respectful, stimulating and nurturing school community for all students, staff and parents. Our dedicated faculty and staff are preparing to welcome your children to a year filled with learning opportunities that prioritize social and emotional learning and encourage curiosity, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.

Enclosed in this letter you will find important information for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Please review it carefully.

Introducing New Staff:

Middle School core subject teachers and additional specialists

- Justin Kane English Language Arts and Social Studies Grade 6
- Allison Hunt One Year Only Math and Science Grade 5
- Soraya Miri Math and Science Grade 6
- Melanie Brown Literacy Specialist Grades 6-8
- Mary Ellen Guyther has changed roles and will be Math Specialist for Grades 5-8
- Dawn Butkowsky One Year Only Social Studies for Grade 7

Unified Arts Program

- Emilia Giordano Health and Life Skills Grades K-8
- Anne Caldwell One Year Only leave for Gail Gardner Grades K-8
- Kevin Huelsman full time band director and instrumental teacher Grades 4-8

K-4

- Sara Smestad Kindergarten teacher
- Jessica Whitely English Language Development teacher Shared Services
- Hannah Marini speech and language teacher
- Mary Yancey Occupational Therapist, Kindergarten

ESPs

- Marcia De Castro Borges ESP, Interpreter
- Amanda Cardoso ESP
- Gabriella Sampaio Da Silva, ESP

Parent Teacher Association

Our Parent Teacher Association, (PTA) is dedicated to making this school a better place to learn with the help of volunteers. Please consider joining this wonderful organization. The PTA will have a table in the school lobby on the morning of September 5, the first day of school. Please stop by and say hello. The first PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Main Office Conference Room. Your attendance would be terrific!

Edgartown School Committee

The School Committee will hold its first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the library. School Committee meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to attend.

School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) meets monthly to discuss ways to improve the school through the School Improvement Plan. The first meeting of the SAC is on Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Office Conference Room. Please sign in at the main office to obtain a visitor's pass.

Open House – September 13

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open House, Health Fair, Garden Tour, and Community Barbeque. All food will be provided. Here's the schedule breakdown:

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Health Fair is in the Main Lobby. The Garden Tour is in the School Garden. The food provided will be served in the cafeteria.

6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Open House is in the classrooms. Stop by to visit your students' classrooms and meet the teachers.

Curriculum Nights

Curriculum Nights are designed to share important information about curriculum, testing, classroom management practices, homework, and grading policies. There will be two Curriculum Nights this fall. The first Curriculum Night on October 4 is for parents/guardians of students in grades K-4. The second Curriculum Night on October 11 is for parents/guardians of middle school students in grades 5-8. More information about these events will be provided as we get closer to these dates.

School Meals

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has extended free school meals for ALL students throughout the 2023-2024 school year! This means that breakfast and lunch will continue to be served at NO COST to all students. Even though meals will be free for all, it is important for families to complete the household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals. We strongly encourage all families to submit this form, as it allows us to establish eligibility for P-EBT Benefits and serve families most effectively.

Change of Address/Phone

It is very important that you notify the office when there is a change in any contact information such as phone number, address, email, emergency contacts, etc. Please call 508-627-3316 or email: mbnaron@mvyps.org.

New Sign-In Procedure

During regular school hours all visitors will be asked to use our new sign-in procedure at the front desk. Please be sure to bring a state ID, passport, or other picture ID when you visit the building. This system adds both a layer of security and a way for us to track all non-staff visitors in the building each day.

School Website

Important forms can be found on the school's website at www.edgartownschool.org. This website also contains teachers' web pages and useful information about the school. Thank you for taking the time to review the important information on our website.

I look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Tuesday, September 5, and hope it will be a year filled with joyful memories.

Warm regards,
Shelley Einbinder, Ed.D.
Principal