

# FROM MRS. SMITH'S DESK

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## NEW STAFF

Mr. Pat Engleright is our new physical education teacher.

Ms./Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is our new alternative education teacher.

## PARENT PICK UP & DROP OFF

In the morning, when dropping your child off for school, please be aware of traffic moving by on your passenger side. If you need to go into school, please park in the spaces and not in the "No Parking" areas nearest the curb. The teacher is on duty at 7:15, so that is the earliest students may be dropped off in the morning.

After school, parent pick up is in the WES lobby. The person picking up the child will need to sign in at the podium and transfer will occur in front of our duty teacher, Mrs. Chapin.

Our goal is to ensure that all students are safe. Thank you for your help.

## Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) coming to WES!

We will be hosting a pizza party for all parents interested in joining the Williams Watch D.O.G.S. Information will be available at the Open House on August 26!

## Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!

Dear Students and Families of Williams Elementary School!

I hope this letter finds you all enjoying the gorgeous summer! You are probably having fun swimming, playing games and going on fun adventures. I have had fun spending time with my family. We've been fishing, working in our garden, hiking and enjoying the sunshine. It has been a wonderful summer. Don't forget to finish filling out your Sizzling Summer Passports. We will have a special assembly when we return to recognize all students that have successfully completed the Sizzling Summer Passport. You still have time to complete the passport if you haven't started yet. You can download the passport from the district website or pick one up at Open House to fill in as you reflect on your summer activities. All passports must be returned to school by: **Friday, September 6.**

Welcome families new to Williams and returning families to a new school year. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education.

### Below are our goals for the 2019-2020 school year:

1. We will continue our work on increasing our attendance rate of all students by reducing chronic absenteeism and students arriving late to school. "*Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent or more of the academic year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences, suspensions and time missed due to changing schools. Based on a 180 day school year, that means a student would miss about 18 days per year.*" ([attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org)). In the 2017-2018 school year 12.72% of our students were chronically absent. Last year, 8.68% of our students were chronically absent. As you can see we improved by 4.04%! Our success with this goal was truly a team effort. We appreciate all of your support and are looking forward to working with you again this year.
2. To increase mathematics and reading assessment results. We will analyze assessment data in the areas of math and reading and increase the number of students who are not/partially proficient to meeting grade level expectations.

This year we will be incorporating a 25 minute W.I.N. (What I Need) block three days a week that will be dedicated to helping our students grow. This block of time will focus on supporting students with math concepts, providing enrichment opportunities, giving students opportunities to participate in book talks, teaching students about coding and supporting students with social skills and conflict resolution. We are excited about this new addition to our schedule.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**August 26** - Open House and Popsicle Party, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**August 28** - First day of school for students in grades K - 6 and 9!

**August 28** - Red Carpet Event. Please join us for our annual Red Carpet Event at 8:00AM as we welcome our students to the 2019-2020 school year.

**August 28** - RSU 18 School Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Central Office

**September 2** - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

**September 9** - NorthWest Educational Assessments (NWEA) for grades 3, 4, & 5 will begin - testing occurs throughout the month

**September 24** - Early Release Day - students dismissed at noon.

**October 2** - Flu Clinic

**October 3** - School Picture Day

SAY CHEESE!



I'm excited to announce our theme for the year, **"Be a Champion!"** What does it mean to you to be a champion? For me, being a champion is showing up each day and being the best version of yourself. Being on time for school and having awesome attendance so you do not miss any of the exciting learning experiences your teachers have planned. Giving each task your all...even when you're having a tough time. Being there for others. Having the courage to take risks in your learning and standing up for what is right. Our theme song for the year is, *The Champion* by Carrie Underwood. I challenge you to learn the lyrics to our song so you are able to sing it at our first community meeting on October 7. The song mentions perseverance and attitude as qualities that are critical to be a champion! You will persevere through difficult tasks this year...you can do it! The lyrics also state, "A is for attitude working through with patience." We must be patient with the process and learn from our mistakes because growth and success comes with time. Just a few things to think about before the school year starts:

Who are your champions? What qualities do they possess?

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

Be ready to learn and lead like a Champion this year!

The dedicated Williams Elementary School staff and I feel privileged to be a part of this school community. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing returning families and meeting our new families on August 26 at our Family Popsicle Party, Open House and Curriculum Night.

Enjoy the final weeks of summer. I look forward to seeing you all at our Open House and Popsicle Party on Monday, August 26 at 6:00PM.

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith, Principal

## ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent, please call or send a written note to the office upon his/her return stating why he/she was absent. We are required to report unexcused absences to the State, so these notes are really important. We will continue contacting all families whose children are marked absent unexcused. Thank you!

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PACKETS

Your child will be bringing home a packet of materials that need to be completed. All free/reduced lunch forms need to be returned this year (this is a change from previous years). Please fill out the free/reduced lunch form or check off one of the following boxes: our family doesn't qualify / I completed the online application and return to school with the rest of the forms in the packet. The office needs this information by Wednesday, September 4, so please make it a priority to complete. If you need help with any of the forms, please call the office and Mrs. Alley or Mrs. Smith will help you. Your child's safety depends on WES having this information. Thank you very much for completing these forms quickly.