



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

September 5, 2019

***From the Principal:*** Welcome back! Staff and students enjoyed the first days of school. We have been teaching classroom and school-wide expectations using a Responsive Classroom practice called Interactive Modeling. Students have an opportunity to observe correct behavior and then share what they noticed. It is followed up with a chance for students to practice with teachers using language to reinforce, remind, and redirect the behaviors.

***Upcoming Events:***

*All School Meetings are held every Friday at 9:00 in the gymnasium. All are welcome!*

Wednesday, September 11: 1:50 Release

Wednesday, September 11: School Committee at 6:30 at Mohawk Trail School

Wednesday, September 18: 1:50 Release

Wednesday, September 18: Open House - 6:00 - 7:00

Tuesday, September 24: Picture Day

Wednesday, September 25: 1:50 Release

***PTO News:*** It was great to see so many families at our Back To School Potluck last week. We had our first meeting of the year this week, and we are getting organized for many upcoming events. As flyers come home on Thursdays, please consider how you can help us as we raise funds for fun enrichments for your student. This Thursday's folder will bring a flyer asking for baked donations for our bake sale at the Ashfield Film Festival. Local Goods catalogs and order forms went home last week, and more are available in local stores as well as the school lobby. Please share a catalog with neighbors, coworkers, and family members who would enjoy supporting local businesses as well as Sanderson Academy.

***From the School Office:*** Please return the packet of back-to-school paperwork as soon as possible. Like last year, we will be sending home the weekly folder on Thursdays.

***Bus Information:*** If you need to contact the bus company, please use the following numbers: [413-489-3194 extension 10](tel:413-489-3194) or [413-625-0192 extension 21](tel:413-625-0192).

\*\* Starting Friday morning September 6th, Bus # 7 will be starting the Sanderson am bus route 10 minutes earlier.

***Preschool news from Ms. Freeman:*** This week we are excited to be starting preschool! We will be learning about our school, classroom, and each other. We will focus on routines and how to use classroom materials.

Thank you to each family for welcoming me into your homes last week. Home visits are a wonderful way to meet preschoolers as well as start a positive home-to-school partnership. I appreciate your time and kindness. Thank you.

***Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:*** Welcome to a new school year! During these first few days, we are becoming familiar with the rhythm of our day and learning about each other. We have explored our garden, seeing what changes the summer brought and looking toward a fall harvest. We have introduced our new classmates to our outdoor classroom, learning where the boundaries are, exploring the forts, and fixing up the houses in Fairy Village. Just a reminder—our outdoor classroom is an integral part of our day and we go there in (almost) every type of weather. Please dress your child for the weather and send in extra clothes. We are looking forward to a magical year full of wonder and exploration. Our first days have flown by and we are delighted to be sharing this learning experience with our new (and returning) preschoolers.

***Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:*** Our focus this week has been on learning more school routines and opening the play centers. The block, playdough, art, and train table centers are now open for choice time, as well as legos. The art center contains crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, and watercolor paints so far. We also completed our first group art projects—birthday cakes decorated with watercolors for our birthday display and an ocean background for our fish tank.

***First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:*** First grade is off to a great start with 11 boys and 9 girls. We are a big class but the children are learning all their new rules and routines well. We have spent this first week learning about our classroom and school routines. The first graders are especially excited to play on the big structure at recess. We have enjoyed having snack outdoors on these warm sunny days. We are beginning our year sharing our hopes for first grade, establishing classroom rules, learning about our class library, personal reading book boxes, math routines, math materials, and materials for writing and art projects. Miss Taylor is our full time paraprofessional aide. She knows most of the children from her previous position in Kindergarten. We are all hopeful and excited about our year ahead together.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year Sanderson families! During our first few days of second grade, we have been learning new expectations and routines, becoming familiar with our daily schedule, and focusing on getting to know each other activities. We enjoyed learning about each other through our “Pack a Bag” activity, where we took home a brown bag and filled it with items that told about ourselves. We had fun learning about each other’s families and favorite activities as we practiced our group speaking and listening skills. During our morning

meeting time we have been playing a game called “Count Around” to practice our counting skills. We have started our first lessons from the new district wide math program called Bridges. One daily component of the Bridges math program is called Number Corner, where we will be practicing different skills, such as calendar skills and telling time, during the month of September.

Second Grade Families: If you have any questions or concerns as your second grader transitions into the new school year, please email me at [jrobertson@mtrsd.org](mailto:jrobertson@mtrsd.org), call me at the school (628-4404), or send me a note.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:*** Welcome to a new school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer doing what you enjoy most! Second graders returned to school excited to share all about their summer and eager to learn what second grade would be like. We began our year together by modeling and practicing classroom and school wide expectations. We have started our classroom jobs, working toward our first class incentive and even had the opportunity to visit and explore our outdoor classroom!

***Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:*** Third grade is off to a great start this year. We have been getting to know each other through fun activities and sorting out our goals and dreams for the year. We are using those goals and dreams to create our classroom agreements, which will make it all possible. A notice went home last week, but it should also be said here as well that no nuts are allowed in snacks as we eat snack in our classroom each morning. We have begun our new math curriculum, Bridges, this week, and a homework contract is being agreed upon throughout third grade homes as well. We are also eager to get out to the garden, which was significantly abbreviated this summer by a resident groundhog. Third graders are doing a super job remembering their daily mail folders and coming to school prepared for great days. Many thanks to families for being organized and helpful as our routines begin to solidify.

***Fourth Grade News from Ms. Rida:*** Fourth Grade is off to a great start this year. We are working on developing skills to meet the expectations of 4th Grade. One part of this is our Second Steps program where students are learning about empathy and the importance of walking in someone else's shoes and showing compassion for others. This week we started our class read aloud, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. This is a wonderful story for us to read as a class to kick off the school year. Students have also begun writing about their actual or fictional summer vacation which is inspired by the picture book, *How I Spent My Summer Vacation* by Mark Teague. We are slowly beginning to move forward in our Bridges Math curriculum with daily Math activities and Number Corner exploration at the end of the day. I am looking forward to a great year in 4th Grade!

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** In fifth grade, we have begun to review reading strategies, explore the writing process, and review decimals. We've also started work in our Second Steps program, focusing on empathy and respect. As a read aloud, we've started *The Phantom Tollbooth*. We are having fun with language inspired by the story. We are collecting homophones since we met the

whether man (not the weather man) because he feels like it is more important to know whether there will be weather than what the weather will be.

***Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber:*** Wow what a wonderful start of our year. Sixth Grade has been busy learning routines and expectations. We have also been writing goals as well as creating our own time capsules. We have also been reading several mentor texts that we will be using throughout the year and making inferences such as thinking about “what is the author’s message” in a story.

***Art News from Mrs. McMillan:*** Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. I am excited to be teaching Art this year! Many of you know me as Ms. Wheeler. Over the summer I got married and my new name is Mrs. McMillan. Not only will I be teaching Art this year, but I will also be working as an interventionist (primarily reading) in the younger grades. I am excited about this career switch and am looking forward to getting to know each student at Sanderson Academy!

***Math News from Mrs. Prew:*** Welcome back Sanderson students, families, and friends! I hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful, warm summer. This year, I am feeling especially lucky to serve in our school community as "the math teacher". Together we will embark on our journey with a brand new math curriculum! Part of my "Hopes and Dreams" for this year can be summarized well with this quote from Albert Einstein, "Education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think". Let us all remember this, and support one another, as we navigate new methods, strategies, and ways of learning math!

***Reading News from Mrs. Morey:*** Welcome back! My name is Katy Morey and I am the Reading Specialist here at Sanderson. My role entails, reading groups, intervention, assessment and teacher support/coaching. Reading is a universal skill necessary for all other learning. Reading starts with a love for stories. Read to your children often or simply tell them a story orally. Pre reading starts with children, as early as they can hold a book, turning the pages and mimicking what they see. I am looking forward to a great year reading with your kiddos!

***Mindful Movement with Ms. Sue:*** I hope everyone had a GREAT summer! It sure is WONDERFUL to be back in the swing of things with the back to school schedule. So excited to be sharing everything Mindful and cool Movements that we will do at the All School meeting each week! I look forward to working with your children and learning over this next week what their summers were all about!!

***Health Office News:*** Welcome back! I am so happy to be here and look forward to a great new year ahead. Please make sure you drop off your child’s most recent physical and immunization history and a copy of their birth certificate (if we don’t already have it) call me with any questions at all. Please see my enclosed note regarding when to keep sick children home-working together we can help keep our community healthy. Also please note we will be allowing nut/peanut products in the cafe and there is a nut free table for those with allergies. Please return your child(ren’s) annual medical form asap and if

your child will need any other medications at school an adult will need to bring it in and sign the necessary paperwork.

Thank you! Nurse Loranna

***MTRSD After Care News:*** Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) Enrichment Programs will begin Sept. 16 for students in Grades 3-6. Session One programs run through Oct. 28; flyers will be sent home in folders on Sept. 5 for full program offerings. Information can also be found on the program's website <https://www.mohawktrailschools.org/After-Care-Program> and Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/MTRSDAfterCare/>.

\*\*Starting on Wednesday, Sept. 11, we will provide after care at MTRSD on ALL early release days. This month's focus will be Ecology.\*\*

### ***FREE PROGRAM OFFERING***

Beginning Sept. 26, we will be offering a FREE after school drumming program held every Thursday and Friday for the school year. Be sure to check out the [MTRSD After Care Music Flyer](#) for details.

### ***4H Program***

We're starting a new 4H program for Grades 3-12 at MTRS! This fall, we're offering robotics (currently full), cooking, or sewing. More details to come during your school's Open House. Be sure to stop by and see Mrs. Woof. Interested in starting a new club? Contact Mrs. Woof for details.

### ***HAUNTED HALLWAY -- Save the Date!***

We're excited to host our 2nd Annual HAUNTED HALLWAY at MTRS on Friday, Oct. 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.! This FREE family-friendly (and spectacularly spooooooky) event is held in the middle school hallway at MTRS. Join us for crafts; "treating" without the tricks (snacks & goodies); games and more! This event is fun for EVERYONE! There's a non-scary section especially for our friends who aren't quite ready for the "haunted" hallway. Come visit Mrs. Woof and Ms. Ezra. Questions? Want to learn more? You can contact Mrs. Woof at [awoofenden@mtrsd.org](mailto:awoofenden@mtrsd.org).

***MOHAWK YOUTH FIELD HOCKEY CLINICS:*** The Mohawk varsity field hockey team will be offering free skills building clinics Sundays, September 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 5pm - 6 pm at Mohawk High School. This clinic is offered To students in grades 4th - 6th. All that is needed in order to participate is a mouth and shin Guards: field hockey sticks and balls will be provided. Registration forms will be available at

Practice. Please call Abby at 399-0125 with any questions.