

September 7, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time as we look forward to the challenges and celebrations that will come our way from now through June. We are delighted to have you with us.

South Elementary opens with an enrollment of 300 students in grades K-5, with three sections in each grade except first and third, where we have two sections. Our numbers, along with those of the district, show a slight increase from last year.

Our district this year will focus on assessment and grading, along with the use of data to improve student achievement, and technology to increase home/school communication. To that end, we encourage you to make use of Power School to stay informed regarding your child's academic progress, and to make regular visits to the district and school websites for the weekly menu, upcoming events and other important information. The percentage of parents visiting the website last year was quite low, so we hope to increase those numbers this year.

We will continue with our schoolwide positive behavior support system, SWEBS, as we have seen notable improvement in student behavior. Our focus on career awareness will also continue, with the introduction of "Career Café", where school and community members will visit students during their lunch time to talk about their careers. We will also focus on wellness, with various activities throughout the year. We are pleased to report that our 2010-2011 scores on the Pennsylvania State Assessment in reading and math for grades three through five have met and/or exceeded those required by the state. As the bar is raised each year, we will continue to work as a district and in individual classrooms to be certain that our students are receiving the instruction needed to meet those benchmarks. You can do your part in this effort by having your child in school every day, making sure that homework is completed and handed in on time, and staying in touch with your child's teacher if any problems arise.

I look forward to your continued co-operation and support as we begin another new year together. As always, my door is open to your concerns and needs. Please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher whenever it is necessary. Our primary goal is to provide a productive, fulfilling year, rich with those learning experiences that will insure success for all students. You are encouraged to become an active part of those experiences.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy L. Simon