

Dear Outley Elementary Families,

### **Welcome Back!**

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the school. Our much-appreciated Family Liaison is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

### **New Staff**

Each year brings positive change. This includes a welcomed new addition to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Marvin Birks, as an additional assistant principal. Mr. Birks brings a solid skill set and, understanding approach to meeting children's academic and socio- emotional needs. We are fortunate to have him join the Outley Administrative team!

### **Facilities Update**

If you drove past the school or utilized our outdoor playing spaces this summer, you may have noticed numerous maintenance and construction trucks. District contractors and maintenance personnel have worked diligently to repair our campus from the unfortunate incident at the end of last school year. I am especially pleased with adjustments we were able to make during the renovation stage of our counseling area.

This year we have decided to departmentalize our 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms. Students are able to move more frequently during the day, which helps to increase attention. Students also develop interpersonal skills by being exposed to different teaching styles. Allowing teachers to focus on and master one or two subjects provides for a greater level of expertise and deeper understanding. Because of this, teachers have a greater ability to differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers are extremely excited about this opportunity for our students.

### **Student Placement**

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2019-2020 school year.

Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Outley is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

Thank you to all who are helping prepare for the new school year. Your commitment to insuring that Outley remains a celebrated and successful school is awe-inspiring. I eagerly look forward to greeting students and families again. It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please stop by and say hello. I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

***“Mission Possible: Together We Make it Possible!”***