

August , 2012

Dear Tuckaseegee Students and Families:

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. For many of you, it is a warm welcome back to Tuckaseegee; and for other families, it is a brand new educational journey for your children. Our school staff looks forward to working with you and your children to make this the most successful year ever! Below I have highlighted some important information to assist you in planning for the beginning of school. Also, enclosed you will find a grade level teachers' letter, a classroom supply list, transportation/bus stop schedule and bus tag, and other important beginning of the year information to review.

Classroom Assignment: Attached to this two page letter, you will find your child's teacher assignment and room number. Your child's teacher will also call you prior to our Open House. During the first few weeks of school, there may be a need for reorganization of teacher assignments based on student enrollment numbers. Therefore, classroom assignments are tentative. Should your child's classroom assignment need to change, you will be contacted in advance.

Open House: Open House will be held **Thursday, August 23, 2012**. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to come to the school to meet your child's teacher and visit the classroom. Your child's teacher will make every attempt to call you prior to August 23rd to invite you to Open House. Please ensure that you have notified the front office of any change to your phone number immediately or prior to August 16th. Please note that you can also sign up for or renew your PTA membership during Open House. Feel free to stop by the PTA table and purchase a student planner. Due to very limited parking and very large student enrollment, we have to stagger the Open House schedule. Thank you in advance for adhering to the following Open House schedule:

- **12:00-1:00 Kindergarten, First Grade and K-2 Multi-Age Students and Parents**
- **2:00-3:00 Second Grade and Third Grade Students and Parents**
- **4:00-5:00 Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade and 3rd-4th-5th Grade TD Students and Parents**

First Day of School and School Hours for Students: The first day of school is **Monday, August 27** (Note that our Kindergarten students will participate in a separate Staggered Entry schedule noted in the next section of this letter). Per the CMS School Bell Schedule, student hours are 8:15 A.M. - 3:45 P.M. School doors will open at 8:15 A.M. **Parents should not drop off students prior to 8:15 A.M.** as there is no supervision for their student unless your child is registered in Before School Care. Students will report to the Cafeteria for breakfast or report to the classroom. **The late bell rings at 8:45 A.M.** *If your child arrives late and after 8:45 A.M., you (or an over 18 years of age guardian) will be required to sign in your child in the front office. Chronic and excessive tardy student arrivals will result in a parent conference with the school counselor/administrator or additional corrective action to ensure that interruptions to instruction are minimized, that all students benefit from the maximum high quality instruction daily, and are well prepared for the next grade and end of year student testing.*

Kindergarten First Day of School and Staggered Entry: Please note that students will participate in a staggered entry schedule during the first week of school. This is an excellent way to introduce our newest students to kindergarten. It also allows the teachers to work with your child, observe your child and conduct a kindergarten screening. Your child's teacher will inform you at Open House which staggered entry day your kindergarten child will attend. Kindergarten students may be assigned to a different Kindergarten teacher based on results of the Kindergarten screening. Your teacher will provide specific information regarding this at the Open House.

Talent Development/Learning Immersion Program Update: The K-2 Learning Immersion classes and the 3-5 Talent Development classes are working together as a team this year. This will allow more instructional collaboration between the magnet classes and the magnet teachers. These classes will be located on the same hallway so that they can work together on themes and projects. The Talent Development classes will be a 3-5 Multi-Age for the 2012-2013 school year. We are looking forward to a rigorous and exciting year! Please feel free to contact Kelly Kollar, LI/TD Catalyst Teacher and Magnet Coordinator, if you have any questions.

Bus Transportation: If your child is eligible for bus transportation, your child's bus number, bus stop location and time of AM and PM stops are enclosed. Please ensure that your child's enclosed bus tag is attached to his/her book bag before boarding the bus. Plan to be at the morning and afternoon bus stop 20 minutes prior to the designated time. Note that the bus stop times **may need to be adjusted** by the Transportation Department in the first few weeks or throughout the school year, so your patience and flexibility are appreciated. If you have questions or need to make changes to your child's transportation, school staff will be available in the Technology Lab during Open House, or you can contact the Assistant Principal at 980-343-6055.

Before and After School Enrichment Program: If you need to register your child for Before School or After School Enrichment, the ASEP Coordinator will be available outside the Cafeteria during Open House. There is a \$25 registration fee and a weekly fee for Before School or After School Care. The Before School Program will be in operation from 6:45-8:45 A.M. The After School Program will open from 3:45-6:00 P.M. **Please note that students will NOT be admitted to the school prior to 8:15 A.M. unless they are enrolled in Before School Care.**

School Uniforms: All students wear school uniforms each day. The Tuckaseegee uniform consists of navy or khaki bottoms and white or navy tops with collars. Students wear belts with their shirts tucked in and closed-toe shoes.

I look forward to meeting all of you at **Open House Thursday, August 23rd** and to a very successful 2012-2013 school year.

Sincerely,

Bonnie G. Schmidt, Principal