

Hartley Elementary School

Dear Families of Hartley:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I hope you've had a summer filled with fun and relaxation and are ready for another exciting year. It is my pleasure to serve as the newly-appointed principal of Hartley. My wife, who is a native St. Augustinian and I are delighted to be here with our two sons, Logan who will be in 5th grade at Hartley and Julian who be in 8th grade at Murray Middle School. I can't imagine being anywhere else as I begin my 17th year in education. During my career in public education I have been privileged to serve the communities of New York City, Fairfax County, Virginia and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) of Maryland. I have taught third, fifth, and sixth grade in various elementary schools and also served as a dance specialist for kindergarten to fifth grade. As an administrator, I began as an assistant principal for four years and the served as a principal intern for two years more years. Most recently I served the last two years as the principal of Cashell Elementary, a National Blue Ribbon School in Rockville, Maryland. Prior to my career in education I enjoyed a very fulfilling 17 year career as a professional dancer performing throughout the United States and internationally. However, working with students, their families and the staff who shape young minds has been more fulfilling than any experience I had as a performing artist.

As many of you know, our school has a rich history of excellence and a sterling reputation as a community that cares for its members. With these core values in mind, the staff and I are very excited about the many opportunities for learning this year will bring.

In view of my being new to the community, I'd especially like to welcome the many students and parents who are also new to Hartley. Everything I have experienced since starting on July 5th tells me, you will love our school! We look forward to working with you and your children. I strongly encourage you to become as involved as you can in all school activities and events. Throughout the year the PTO will also let you know about all the wonderful things they do to support our school and the various ways you can become involved.

For those of you who are returning families, we look forward to your ongoing support as we partner together to ensure your children's continued success.

Our current enrollment is about 633 students in grades K through five. Our numbers though are changing every day and therefore could impact our staffing. We currently have five Kindergarten, six first grade, five second grade, seven third grade, five fourth grade, and six fifth grade classes. If you have been around long enough you know that this could change easily before the official school year starts. As a result, we are mindful about when we communicate class assignments.

I remember vividly when I was in elementary school how anxious my parents and I could become, which included wondering who my teacher would be. The Hartley staff demonstrates a great deal of care while considering many factors when arranging classes that will best meet the diverse needs of all our students. Rest assured, I am confident that your child is going to have a fantastic year,



IMPORTANT DATES

August 3: Popsicles with the Principals at 4:00-5:00

August 8: Meet the Kindergarten Teachers 6:00-7:00

August 9: Meet the Teachers, first to fifth grades, 9:00-11:00

August 10: First Day of School, Staggered kindergarten

September 7: Open House
4:30-6:00, Gr. K-2
6:00-7:00, Gr. 3-5

September 4: No School, Labor Day Holiday

September 12: Gamble Rogers Open House 6:00-8:00pm

October 3: Pedro Menendez Open House – 5:00-7:00pm



regardless of who their teacher will be. For children who are beginning Kindergarten this year, you will receive a letter in the coming days from the kindergarten team with specific information about classes and starting times. For those students in all other grades class lists be posted and available during “Meet the Teacher” on Wednesday, August 9th. Please keep in mind we will not be able to honor requests for class changes.

Those of you who had children attending Hartley Elementary last year may be interested in some of the staffing changes we experienced during the summer.

NEW staff members:

- ❖ Kimberly Arnold – Speech and Language Teacher
- ❖ Fifth Grade: **to be determined**
- ❖ Custodian- Amber Obsborne

CHANGING positions:

- ❖ Courtney Johnson to first grade
- ❖ Kim Sikes to first grade
- ❖ Angie Works to third grade
- ❖ Candace Santana will move up to third grade
- ❖ Stephanie Hudson will join the fifth grade team and
- ❖ Bettina Branton will serve as our technology teacher

GOODBYE, congratulations and the best of luck to:

- ❖ Ms. Taylor, Mrs. Joyner, Deborah Rice and Patty McMillen who are all enjoying a wonderful retirement
- ❖ Kasey Overstreet who resigned and has relocated to the state of Washington.

Our website often contains helpful information, including important dates and school events, as well as information from and about our staff. We also post valuable information from SJCS. An important key to your child’s success is our partnership with you and your staying informed is one of the best ways to help your child. When we do need to send home important information directly from me, it will be printed on bright yellow paper.

While we do all that we can to keep our website updated, there remains some revisions that still need to occur. Therefore, I encourage you to visit our website starting next Friday, August 4th for lots of useful information.

In the meantime, please visit the St Johns County District website for very important information regarding **hardship out of zone transfers** at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/transfers/>. In the event you need a **provisional transportation waiver (bus pass)** for your child local schools can no longer issue passes. All requests must be applied for through the transportation office of SJCS. For more information promptly visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/transfers/>

I want to personally invite you to stop by on Thursday, August 3rd between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. for “Popsicles with the Principals.” Mrs. Lynch and I look forward to seeing all of those who can attend. We will be located in the front of the building near the bus loop and kindergarten playground ready to mingle with popsicles.

Please savor every moment of the rest of your summer. Spending quality time with family and friends is very important to our well-being and I encourage you to take every opportunity to do so. Lastly, our staff and teachers are looking forward to seeing you and your child at our Meet the Teacher events on August 8th and 9th.

Sincerely,

Antonio C. Scott

Principal