



MARSHALL HILL SCHOOL

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell
Principal

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August 23, 2023

Dear Marshall Hill families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We have a lot of new, exciting stuff to get to but first, I want to say that I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer break! The summer break offers everyone an opportunity to soak up the sunshine and recharge their batteries a bit. Hopefully, you all were able to enjoy some well-deserved downtime.

I always like to begin these letters by acknowledging the hard work of the people behind the scenes to get the school year up and running... but especially this year! With Summer Literacy in our building this summer, as well as the multitude of moves due to the restructuring, our summer staff was presented with a big task. I want to thank our custodial crew for their work in cleaning the school and getting it in great shape for the teachers to come in and get their learning spaces established for a new year. The teachers put a lot of thought and effort into designing these spaces and spend days during the summer to make sure they're ready for students on Day 1! Lastly, I want to give a big shout out to Mrs. TenHoeve who also worked days throughout the summer, took registrations, and handled a variety of tasks necessary to the successful start of a school year.

Due to the district restructuring, I realize that I actually need to reintroduce myself to this school community as we have many new parent and student faces joining our Marshall Hill family. This is currently my fifth year as the principal of Marshall Hill. Prior to this role, I was an elementary school assistant principal in Byram Township, and, before that, a middle school history teacher in Alexandria Township. My goals are, and have always been, to help foster a healthy climate and culture in our school community as well as supporting the teachers to help our students reach their full potential. I believe that if students love coming to school and feel safe, cared for, and believed in, then they will be more likely to rise to high expectations and reach their full potential. That belief drives my approach and I am just thankful to have a staff that commits themselves to putting forth their best selves every day for kids. I have three children of my own at home with one starting middle school this year, another entering third grade, and another going into pre-K. Busy times!

Here at the school, there have been quite a few staff changes, as a result of the restructuring, that I'd like to highlight at this time:

Mrs. Regina Canali- gr. 1
18 years experience
So excited to join the MH family & get to know the community!



Mrs. Stephanie Sanacore- gr. 2
14 years experience
Excited to join the MH family & learn new ways to teach 2nd graders math!



Mrs. Kristen Seibert- gr. 4
13 years experience
Looking forward to joining the MH family & getting back to 4th grade!



Mr. Chris Jones- PE
29 years experience
Excited to create a safe, fun, & challenging phys. ed experience for all here at MH!



Ms. Jennifer Casperson- gr. 5
16 years experience
Excited to work with 5th graders & learn more about our school community!



Miss Meghan Donegan- Lit. Specialist
27 years experience
Excited to meet new MH students & families & see former WB students & families. Also, excited to be working with Mrs. Adragna, Mrs. Kelly, & Mrs. Fisher again after previously working with them in the past.



Ms. Elizabeth Messano- preschool
25 years experience
Looking forward to meeting & getting to know new students & the entire MH community. The wonders & exploration of paint, crayons, construction paper, blocks, & dramatic play never gets old.

Also joining our team this year are:

- Miss Jenna Sokolik- art teacher (splitting days w/ Mrs. Chelsea Pires)
- Mrs. Cheri Orlando- media specialist
- Miss Danielle Quigley- special class aide
- Mrs. Dagmara Barkley- special class aide
- Mrs. Erin Osborne- building aide

By this point, you should have been able to see their children's schedule and bus pass on the Parent Portal that opened on Monday, August 21st. If you have trouble accessing the Parent Portal, you may contact the main office. **The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 7, 2023.**

Please note the following important information regarding **drop-off and dismissal**:

- Student drop-off is at **8:20**. Please wait with your child(ren) in the car line in the front of the school until you are motioned to let them out of your car by a staff member on duty. Students will enter via one of two doors, depending on your vehicle's position in the line. Staff will be on duty in the hallways to assist your children in getting to where they need to be. Please make every effort to drop your child(ren) off on time as school begins officially at 8:35. Being late can serve as a distraction to the class and result in lost instructional time for your child(ren).
- If you are picking up your child(ren), please arrive prior to **2:50** and wait outside by the main door. We will continue to dismiss students being picked up like we did last year. Students will begin to be called for dismissal around 2:50. Please bring a photo ID, such as a driver's license, with you to show the staff on duty.
- If you plan on picking your child(ren) up at dismissal the first day or any day for the remainder of the year, please send in a note or email mhspickup@gmail.com. This is the best email address to communicate pickup changes to our main office.
- **Preschool parents**: Please see more communication from Ms. Betsy Messano on specifics related to preschool dropoff/pickup times and procedures

If you haven't filled out the free and reduced lunch forms yet, please see here: [Free/Reduced Lunch Application](#) . You can also apply through the [Parent Portal](#) . Lastly, as far as lunches are concerned, please see the following links from Pomptonian, our provider for student lunches, for more information on allergy awareness and pre-ordering. ([Why Pre-Order](#) & [Allergy Statement](#))

For returning parents, thank you for your continued support for our wonderful school community as we arrive at the start of yet another school year. Your continued partnership is key to a successful academic experience for the students and we look forward to all of the great things that are in store for us this year. For all new parents to MH, welcome to a great school community and I look forward to meeting, and working with, you! Enjoy the remainder of summer and we'll see you soon!

Be well,

Patrick O'Donnell

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell, Principal

