

# Beginning Educator Support Team

Fall 2019 Newsletter

## A New Year Begins

Welcome to a new school year!

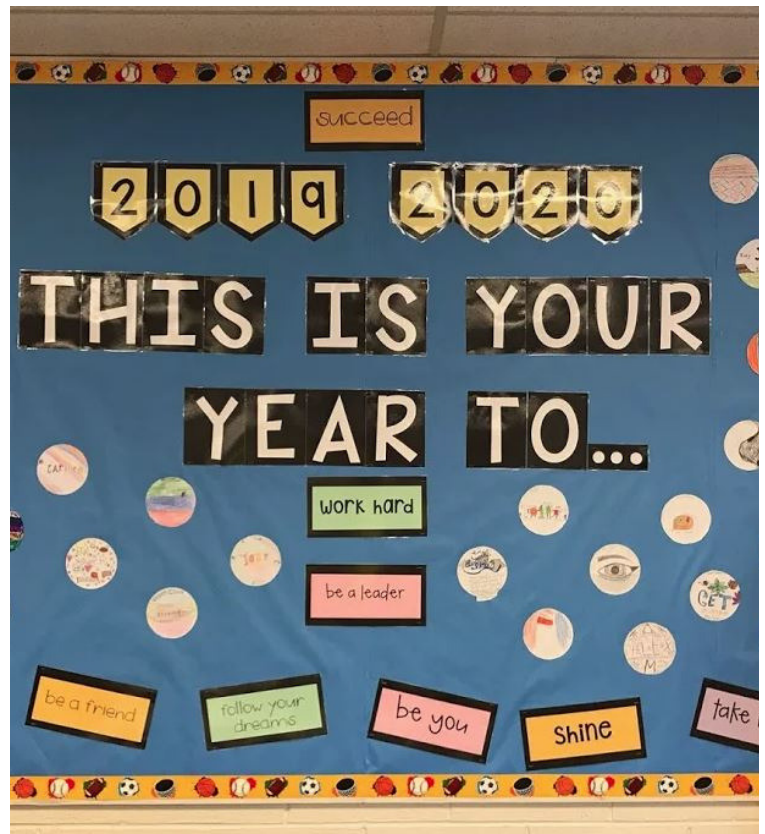
This is both an exciting time and a stressful time as we anticipate the personalities of our new students, explore ways to design the learning environment, engage parents, and meet new colleagues.

It's easy to become overwhelmed with so many things to think about. Remember that our students are feeling all of those same emotions, so give them and yourself a moment to breathe, get centered, and cultivate a positive outlook about all the great learning to come.

Keep in mind the words of Alfred Mercier: "What we learn with pleasure we never forget."



Get inspired! Check out this [PADLET](#) to see some of the amazing learning environments from our newest teachers in WWPS.



First-year Garrison MS teacher, Nate Ferraro invites his students to consider their goals for 2019-20

## Mentoring Convos

"I know I should have questions, but I'm not even sure what to ask!"

If you're feeling like this, you might consider some of these topics for learning-focused conversations this time of year:

- Schedule regular check-ins with a mentor
- Getting to know your mentor and team/department colleagues
- Learning to use Google calendar
- Location/availability of teaching materials and sharing with colleagues
- Classroom layout and systems
- Establishing, practicing, and refining classroom routines and procedures
- Establishing a culture for learning in the classroom
- Communicating with parents and families and parent-teacher conferences
- Lesson pacing and making the most of instructional time
- Creating emergency substitute plans
- Upcoming student assessments

# Parents as Partners

The body of literature around parent and community involvement with schools is clear: the more frequently we can engage parents and families as partners in students' learning, the better the outcomes are for those students.

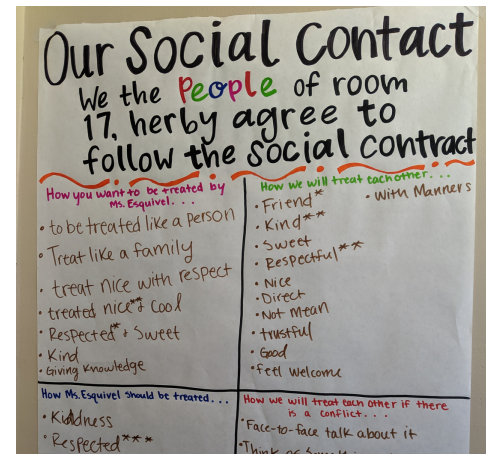
Begin the school year by building those relationships before you need them. Parents who have had negative interactions with schools in the past are not likely to reach out, themselves. This may be due to their own childhood experiences, inexperience with today's school systems, or simply because they haven't felt comfortable in the school setting. Initiating contact and nurturing relationships with parents is an important component to

student success. Every teacher has their own approach to engaging families, but here are a few ideas from around WWPS:

- Set up a calendar to make regular positive phone calls home
- Develop a class newsletter or web page
- Attend community and school events and connect with parents
- Use tech tools like Class Dojo or REMIND to keep parents informed
- Team up with teachers to host events like Family Literacy or STEM Nights
- Share "try this" strategies to help parents support their child's learning
- Keep reiterating your shared goal of supporting student learning together!

For more tips on effective parent-teacher communication, [CLICK HERE!](#)

## Mentoring Spotlight



Second-year teachers Sydney Noble and Todd Smith share reflections; First-year teachers Erin Peek, Sadie Tonn, and Melanie Medina imagine their classrooms together; First-year teacher, Tanya Esquivel and her students collaborated on their social contract during the first week of school

During New Teacher Orientation this year, our newest educators heard inspiring stories from teachers who just wrapped up their first year in 2018-19, discussed key considerations around learning environments and instructional practice, and collaborated with their colleague mentors to plan their first days in the classroom.

With a helping hand from all of the mentors, building buddies, teacher leaders, administrators, and demo classroom teachers who are a part of BEST (Beginning Educator Support Team), these teachers and their students are primed for a successful year of learning! Help us welcome them and all of our new staff across the district this fall!

Comments, questions, or want to know more about supporting early career teachers?  
Contact: Erin Dorso, WWPS BEST Coord/Teacher Mentor at [edorso@wwps.org](mailto:edorso@wwps.org)