



Greetings Teachers:

On behalf of Executive Director Yolonda Severe, Director Marialana Juliano, and the entire Office of Early Childhood we welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! As we return to full day in-person instruction across the district, it is important to remember the significant role you play in students and families' lives each day. However, you are not in this alone. We are here to support you in every way possible so that you can be successful. "Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean" - Ryunosuke Satoro.

This year there will be a great focus on best practices, phonological awareness and instituting a balanced literacy and math program in conjunction with Creative Curriculum. The following information is meant to support you in getting started this school year. Additional information may be forthcoming.

- [Safe Return Plan](#)
 - Please review the [Safe Return Plan](#) located on the district website. Information pertaining to Early Childhood can be found on page 11.
- [Professional Development](#)
 - Several PD sessions are coming up:
 - Advanced Strategies: Bringing Peaceful Practices to your Classroom webinar- You will be receiving an email about this webinar. Additional information will also be sent to administrators.
 - [Power of GOLD](#) - The GOLD platform will be elevated at the end of the first collection period. In order to prepare for the transition, please complete the Power of GOLD webinar in GOLD by December.
 - [Ignite by Hatch](#) - Training will be available for all teachers on how to use Ignite by Hatch in your classrooms. Several sessions will be made available after school and on Saturday. While these sessions are voluntary, we strongly suggest that you participate so that you can gain the full benefit of the program. Please register [here](#).
- [Curriculum and Instruction](#)
 - [PIE Resources](#)
 - Every year we try to update and add additional resources. This summer many resources were added for the [studies](#) including pictures from some of your classrooms.
 - The following documents have been updated and can be found in PIE: [Studies Pacing Guide](#), [Focus Standards](#), [Daily Schedule](#), [Daily Schedule Guidance](#)

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- As a reminder, you should be using the Lesson Plan Template (please download to use) and including Second Step lessons daily. The Updated Informing Document should be used to develop and plan your lessons.
- As always, we start the year with the [Beginning the Year](#) Teaching Guide. These first 6 weeks are important in developing social emotional skills and helping students adjust to routines and expectations. You should be completing the [Beginning the Year](#) webinar to familiarize yourself with the guide.
- Child Assessment
 - [Performance-Based Assessment](#)
 - The [GOLD Schedule](#) aligns with the district's marking periods. It is suggested that you print this information so you always have it handy.
 - [GOLD Directions for Teachers](#) has been updated. It is extremely important that student's information is entered as it appears in PowerSchool. If your students rolled over from last year or were transferred in by your admin, please be sure to review all information.
 - Please do not create new classrooms in GOLD. Your admin will transfer and archive your students. **New duplicate classrooms will be deleted.**
 - The [Guidelines for Writing Observation Notes](#) have been updated. It is important that you are taking quality notes so that you can inform your instruction. Observation notes should be entered **daily**.
 - Child Assessment
 - [ESI-R](#) will be used with all students **new** to pre-k who do not have an IEP based on the [ESI-R Screening Timelines and Guidance](#)
 - All documents including the [Flow Chart](#), [Initial Family Letter](#), [Results Family Letter](#), [Classroom Roster](#) (download to use), [Family Signature Form](#), and [Screening Tools](#) can be found in PIE.2

Your Teacher Coach and PIRT Coach will be reaching out to you in the coming days. Please feel free to contact them or your admin with any questions or concerns.

Remember to take a moment for yourself today to breathe and reflect! You did an amazing job! Wishing you only the best this coming year! May your days be filled with laughter, joy and learning!