



# Salisbury

Community School

**286 Kelly Crossroad  
Salisbury, VT 05769**

**Phone (802) 352-4291**

August 6, 2019

Dear Salisbury Community School Families,

Welcome back! I hope you are having a fun relaxing summer and that your children have been enjoying their summer books. Remember to send in their reading logs with your signature so they can turn those books into raffle tickets for a bike raffle again this year! The drawing will be **Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** during our **All School Gathering**.

We have two new staff joining us this school year and one former staff in a new position. **Sally Borden** is our new **Speech and Language Pathologist** and **Annabelle Maroney** is our new **Learning Specialist**. They both bring vast experience and enthusiasm to their new positions at SCS. **Sarah Metcalf** will be our **music and instrumental teacher**. Sarah has been teaching music at Ripton and Weybridge as well as band in most of our small schools. We have a terrific staff and we are very excited to begin our year together.

This year, we will continue our transition to the International Baccalaureate Program—a child-centered instructional framework that we think students and families will find engaging. We will continue to keep you informed as we introduce new elements of this program into our school. Teachers and staff will continue to team to best accommodate student needs and class sizes. We are excited about these teaching teams and feel that we will be able to support all students well. Learning Teams (Preschool-Kindergarten, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6) will share a schedule so they may collaborate. We will have our second year of Spanish. Students in 2nd through 6th grade will have it twice a week. We will also come up with opportunities to introduce Spanish to Preschool-1st. grade.

Much work has been happening at the school to get ready for our first day of school. Teachers have participated in professional development both as students and presenters. The school has been thoroughly cleaned and the grounds have been refreshed and inspected for safety.

School will begin on **Wednesday, August 28th**. **Preschool** students' first day is **Thursday, August 29th**. Children are welcome at school any time after 7:30 am. Any student arriving before the school bus is expected to report to the library for supervision. Students head to class at 7:45 from buses or the school library. It is very important that students be on time each day, as teachers will be meeting with students and orienting them to the day's work as soon as they arrive. For this reason, we also ask that parents who would like to talk with teachers do so before or after school, but not at time of arrival. We want teachers to be able to greet and

welcome each student into their classroom and give them their undivided attention. This will result in a great start to your children's day!

Students will be dismissed at **2:45 pm**. Students departing by car are dismissed at the upper parking lot. If a student is picked up early, they must be signed out at the front desk. Please be sure to include the reason the child needed to leave early. The end of the day is a very important time of reflection and organization. It is expected that students stay for a full day unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**ACSD Bus routes** will be published in the paper and on our **website** the **first week in August** by the Central Office. You can also request a hard copy by calling Donna Simpson at 352-4291.

You can learn more about this school year at our ***Back to School Barbecue and Potluck Friday, September 6 from 3:30-5:30 PM***. Families are welcome to join in the games, fun activities and barbecue. *We ask that families with last names that begin with A-M bring a side dish, while families with last names that begin with N-Z bring a dessert to share.* The Friends of Salisbury Community School (FOSCS) and Middlebury Community Engagement will provide beverages, hot dogs, and games.

We are not asking students to bring their own supplies or provide supplies for the classroom this year. ACSD schools have agreed to provide all supplies needed for classroom instruction.

Mary Johnson Child Care Center will again offer and manage our ***After School Program*** this year. It is available to students Kindergarten through sixth grade every school day from 2:30-5:15 beginning on ***Tuesday, September 3rd***. Tuition is \$17 per day and \$11.50 for each additional child in the same family. There are a limited number of slots available each day. Families must apply and have received an approval letter prior to attending. Contact Donna Simpson at the front desk to request an application. If you have any questions about this program you may contact Anne Gleason at 388-2853. Subsidies are available.

We offer a ***Breakfast and Lunch Program*** with healthy kid-friendly food. The price for breakfast/snack will be \$1.85 and \$3.00 for lunch. If milk is ordered without a meal, it is \$.50. If you wish your child to have breakfast and/or lunch, please pay in advance or on the first day of school OR submit an application for free or reduced meals. Applications will be available in hard copy or online. One application for all children in one family regardless of which school they attend is all that is needed. Last year's eligibility status will carry over for the first few weeks of school, but a new application for this school year is required prior to October 15th. ***Directly certified families do not need to reapply.***

Please note several forms will be e-mailed to you with this letter. In order to be prepared for the first day of school, we ask that you print and fill out these forms and send them back to the school via US mail or with your child on the first day of school. If you wish to receive hard copies, please call Donna or reply to this email and we will send you a set.

The forms are:

- ***A Student Health Information Annual Form*** (for all families)

- **A Student Dismissal Form**- In addition to the form, all changes to departure must be in writing to Donna. One written notice with the plan for the week is recommended. Please use the orange pads titled "A Note to School" when sharing dismissal plans.

- **An application for Free or Reduced Breakfast and Lunch.** We encourage all families to apply. This form must be filled out every year, even if you qualified last year. All families who qualify for reduced, will also receive free breakfast and lunch. **All information is kept confidential.** Also attached you will find information on how to apply online and general meal program information.

Thank you for helping us to be prepared and keep your children safe and healthy at this busy time of year.

We are inviting you to come in on the first day of school and join us for our **Welcome Back All-School Meeting at 7:45**. During this meeting, we will introduce everyone to our new students and staff. This brief meeting will be followed by a **Parents' Meet and Greet** around 8:15 where you can have a cup of coffee/tea and a muffin, and connect with other parents.

We would like the school to be a place where you always feel welcome. We plan to keep you informed of issues and activities with a bi-monthly Newsletter; watch for an email on every other Monday telling you it's been posted on the website. In addition, your child's teacher will post home news from the classroom. The lunch menu, calendar of events and other important and timely information will be posted on our website: [acsdvt.org/Salisbury](http://acsdvt.org/Salisbury). District information can be found at [acsdvt.org](http://acsdvt.org). There is a free app for your phone you can download to stay informed. **If you prefer paper notifications, please let us know.** We value your ideas and your participation in your child's education. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child's teacher when you have a question or a concern. We know that parents' involvement in their children's education is a big factor in school success, and we will be looking for ways to keep you involved. When visiting the school, please report to the front desk for a visitor's pass. Due to privacy and confidentiality, we ask that classroom visits be pre-arranged and pre-approved by the classroom teacher and principal, just ask!

Thank you for the many ways you support our work here at Salisbury Community School. I hope to see you on the 28th!

Sincerely,

M. Fernanda Canales, Principal

You may find our school calendar on the reverse side of this letter for your convenience.