



# Salisbury

Community School

**286 Kelly Crossroad  
Salisbury, VT 05769**

**Phone (802) 352-4291**

August 6, 2018

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 this year will be **Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** during our **All School Gathering**.

We have many new staff and former staff in new positions so I thought it most helpful if I gave you an overview of “who is who” at school next year. **Tony Francescutti** will be our new G5-6 teacher and will be teaming with **Bethany Morrissey**, the other G5-6 teacher. **Donna Payne** will be the paraprofessional supporting students in those grades. **Amy Clapp** will be a G4 teacher (a change from science specialist) and she will be teaming with G3 teacher, **Lili Foster**. **Suzie Quesnel** will be the paraprofessional supporting students in that class. **Bryanna Allen-Rickstad** will also be working in G3. **Ann Rubright** will be teaching G2 and teaming with G1 teacher, **Nancie Crawford**. **Sandy Hayes** will be supporting students in their classrooms, as well as acting as a trained health designee. **Missy Schauerte** will also be working in G1. Finally, **Casey Fitzgerald** will be our Preschool-Kindergarten teacher and **Beth Hughes** will be the paraprofessional supporting those students. **Meaghan Leonard** will be working in the Preschool-Kindergarten classroom. In addition, **Sarah Quinn** will be our special educator in G1-6 and **Kari Clark** will be our special educator for Preschool-Kindergarten. **Leigh Harder** will be our math and literacy interventionist (Title I). **Chad Chamberlain** will be our PE teacher on Monday, and Wednesday, **Kendra Gratton** will be our music teacher on Tuesday, **Sarah Metcalf** will be our band teacher on Friday and **Eileen Gombosi** will be our art teacher on Thursday. **Debra Koretz** will be our Spanish teacher. She will be with us all day Monday and Friday morning. **Megan Sutton** will be our librarian every other Monday and on Tuesday and Thursday and **Nancy Velez** will be our library assistant, probably on part of Monday, Wednesday and Friday. **Joe McLaughlin** will be our guidance counselor on Wednesday and **Vicky Wideman** will be our school based clinician 3-4 days, to be determined. **Gina Ciancia** will be returning as our school nurse on Monday. We are still looking for a food program director but **Lisa Malinowski** will be

returning as assistant cook. **Donna Simpson** will continue to be our administrative assistant extraordinaire and health designee -and I, the principal. Wow! This is a terrific staff and we are very excited to begin our year together.

Grade Teams (1-2, 3-4 and 5-6) will share a schedule and will work together on inquiry units. They may also collaborate to best meet student needs by creating opportunities to share students during literacy and math. This school year, we will have Spanish for the first time! Students in 3rd through 6th grade will have it twice a week, while students in preschool-2nd grade will have it once a week.

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. We also have a brand new second grade classroom next to first grade. It looks awesome and will facilitate collaboration between the two classes.

School will begin on **Wednesday, 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**. This is a change to previous years. 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. **Bus routes** will be published on our **website** the **week of August 13<sup>th</sup>**. You can also request a hard copy by calling Donna Simpson at 352-4291.

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.

You can learn more about these exciting opportunities at our ***Back to School Barbecue and Potluck Friday, September 7 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, beverages and games.

Each year we request a few supplies that we would like each family to provide for the classroom. It should not amount to more than \$10 or so, as many places have great back to school sales. If this is a hardship, we understand and will not expect that all supplies will be provided, so do what you can. If we used a brand name, it's because, in our experience, these will last longer. ***Students do not need to purchase expensive binders, notebooks or folders, as these will be provided to them.***

All students, Kindergarten through sixth grade are asked to contribute:

- 2 packages of 12 Ticonderoga #2 pencils
- 1 package of eraser caps
- 2 large glue sticks
- 1 box of Crayola fat-tip markers, Classic Colors
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils.

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 4<sup>th</sup>***. Tuition is \$16 per day and \$11 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 \$1.70 and \$2.90 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. Last year's eligibility status will carry over for the first few days of school, but a new application for this school year is required prior to October 1st. ***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.**

Thank you for helping us to be prepared and keep our 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 Weekly Newsletter; watch for an email on Mondays 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). 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 29th!

Sincerely,

M. Fernanda Canales, Principal