Dear Incoming Kindergarten Families,

It is my hope that you continue to stay safe and healthy in the midst of the challenging circumstances that have accompanied the COVID-19 health emergency. While our staff is saddened that we were unable to host our typical kindergarten orientations last Spring, we wanted to take a moment to welcome you and our newest students to Harmony Elementary School. During a typical year, we would have invited parents and students as a whole class for an orientation to meet essential staff, tour the building, see the learning environments, and meet your teachers as the class of 2033.

In order to ensure that our schools are prepared to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students for the 2020-21 school year, the district and building based Pandemic Response Teams have created comprehensive re-entry plans. Our district plan served as a blueprint to develop our building specific plan. Student, teacher, and parent safety were the main focus of our plan. For our newest students, that includes providing a smooth transition into kindergarten. A planned interactive information session is scheduled and we encourage you to attend the first session listed below (an additional session will be planned the first week of September):

Thursday, August 27th at 7:00pm via Zoom (link to be shared next week)

As part of our District Reopening Plan, students and parents will be scheduled for a one-to-one reentry meeting with your child’s teacher on September 8th-10th. These meetings will be 30 minutes in length and are designed to meet the teacher, see the classroom, learn about remote learning, and become familiar with the school. Your child’s teacher will be reaching out to schedule these meetings sometime during the first week of September. For health and safety reasons, we are limiting this meeting to one parent/guardian and the student. The in-person meetings will ensure the first steps for a strong bond to begin to develop between your child and their teacher. If health and safety reasons prohibit you from attending the in-person session, the teacher can accommodate a virtual session.

In addition to your meeting with the teacher, you will be asked to select a time for your child to come into school the week of September 14th to take the ESI-K Readiness Assessment. The ESI-K takes approximately 30 minutes to administer. The ESI-K, coupled with the information you shared with the teacher, will serve as a data-driven and anecdotal based picture of your child’s readiness skills. This information will allow your child’s teacher to best serve their individual needs.

Finally, it is important to note that during the week of September 14th kindergarten students will only be coming into the buildings during their scheduled ESI-K time. The remaining time will be filled with virtual learning opportunities designed by your child’s teacher. Teachers will be giving you specific information and instructions about how this will look during the week. Participation in the virtual learning opportunities provided during the week of September 14th will be used for attendance purposes. Beginning September 21st, kindergarten students will follow our district’s phased-in reopening plan with last names beginning with A-K attending Monday and Tuesday and L-Z attending Thursday and Friday. Students will be provided virtual instruction on the days they are not attending school on campus in-person.

It is our hope that the remainder of your summer is relaxing, safe, and healthy.

Sincerely,

Erik M. Paulson
Principal