

August 2016



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year!!! I hope all of you had a restful and relaxing summer! We certainly had a lot of good weather to enjoy. It was nice to have some downtime to relax with my family, but I am excited to get our 13th year at Murray Lake started. School begins Tuesday, September 6. Our school hours are 8:40 am-3:33 pm. On the first day of school, students should go straight to their classrooms. Starting the 2nd day of school and for the rest of the year, students will go directly through the main doors then on the playground as they arrive.

If you haven't already heard, my name is Molly Burnett, and I am the new principal here at Murray Lake! I feel honored to be a part of such an amazing school community. I'll start by telling you a little bit about myself. I grew up in the Greenville area. This is my 14th year in the field of education, and I love it! My family and I moved to Lowell two years ago, and we truly enjoy being part of such a great community. My husband, Ryan, and I have two kids. Both will be here at Murray Lake next year. Addison is 7 and will be in 1st grade. Brady is 6 and will be in kindergarten!

We have some new teachers and staff members joining us this year as well. We've added another section to kindergarten and 4th grade. April Simmons will be our new 4th grade teacher and I'm working on our new kindergarten teacher as I write! Matt Jablonski is our new 5th grade teacher.

Megan Baker will be our new speech pathologist. Amber Rediske will be our new school psychologist. Jennifer Slinger will be our new reading intervention coordinator/teacher. Sue Wernet and Janet Fabis will be our reading intervention assistants. We have some new paraeducators joining our team as well. We are so fortunate to have these new additions to our staff!

Below are some questions and answers to help you get the new school year rolling along:

When is the first day of school and what time does it begin?

School starts on Tuesday, September 6. Our school day begins at 8:40 am.

How early may I drop my child off at school?

You may drop your child off between 8:20 and 8:35. *With our security system in place, the front doors of our building are locked until 8:20. Please plan to drop your child off at 8:20 or later.* If your child is eating breakfast at school, they may go to the cafeteria at 8:20 to eat before they enter the classroom. All other students will go outside to the playground until the bell rings.

What time and where may I pick up my child after school?

School dismisses at 3:33 pm. *With our security system in place, the front doors of our building are locked until 3:15. Parents picking up students are asked to arrive at 3:15 or later.* Students need to remain in their classrooms until the end of the school day unless there's an emergency for early dismissal. You may wait in the school lobby for dismissal (please do not go down the hallways to the classrooms prior to 3:33) or pull up to the curb in the parking lot for your child to meet you. Parents who choose to enter the building to meet their child must park in the parking lot to allow traffic to flow through the pick-up area. For the safety of our children, please drive slowly and use caution during this busy time.

What if I need to pick up my child early from school or drop him/her off late?

Research indicates that each time a child is interrupted in a school day it takes the amount of time of their age in minutes to refocus their attention. For our young students, that's 5-12 minutes of time just to refocus! It's understandable that an occasional early pick-up or late drop-off may occur, but please try to keep these to a

minimum. Students arriving after 8:40 need to be signed in at the office. When picking your child up prior to 3:33, please come to the office to sign him/her out and we will contact the teacher to dismiss your child.

What if I need to change the pick-up routine?

Please call the office before 3:00 pm to change the dismissal arrangements. Though this is not always possible, it helps with the end-of-day routine in the classroom. Transportation, 987-2540, should be contacted if there is a change in bus routine for your child.

How much is lunch?

Lunch prices for the 2015-2016 school year are (please note change in lunch price):

Lunch: Full pay: \$2.30 Reduced: \$0.40 Milk: \$0.50

Breakfast: Full pay: \$1.10 Reduced: \$0.30 Milk: \$0.50

Free and reduced meal applications must be completed each school year and can be found at www.lunchapp.com.

You may send lunch/milk money for the day, week or month. An account will be established for each student.

To check account balances and make deposits (fee charged for on-line deposits) go to

www.sendmoneytoschool.com.

How could I become a volunteer at Murray Lake Elementary?

We welcome your help at school. Volunteers are used in the classroom and on projects outside of the classroom. Your child's teacher will let you know about volunteer opportunities for their class. To comply with state law, volunteers may be asked to submit to a background check. Family Links, our parent organization, will send home a sign-up sheet with many opportunities to help throughout the school year.

How will discipline be handled?

No child is perfect. Even my own kids struggle to get along some days, so when you mix 475 students at an elementary school, there will ALWAYS be some behavior issues. Minor behavior issues are handled by teachers and other staff members as they occur. If severe behavior problems occur, or minor behaviors re-occur, staff will send students involved in these behaviors to me. Consequences to match these offenses are handed out to the students, and a contact from me to the parents of these students is made. We also emphasize greatly our character traits on a daily basis. If you ever feel that your child is being "bullied" or a behavior problem is not being handled appropriately, please do not hesitate to contact me.

How will I receive school communications?

Murray Lake Elementary communicates in several ways. A publication called the "Murray Lake Messenger" will be sent from the office every week. Teachers also send newsletters. We have a parent portal on Infinite Campus where parents of students in the upper grades may access grades for their child. Most communications will be sent via email to our parents. Of course, we will continue to send paper copies for those who may not have access to a computer or email. **Please contact the office if you require paper copies. To ensure that we have accurate information, please let our office know if your phone number, address or email address changes.**

Will my child have recess every day?

Each child has recess twice per day. Our students have recess after they eat lunch and for 30 minutes in the afternoon. The lunch schedule is as follows:

11:25-12:00	5 th grade
11:35-12:10	4 th grade
11:45-12:20	3 rd grade
11:55-12:30	2 nd grade
12:05-12:40	1 st grade
12:15-1:00	Kindergarten

How do I know what bus my child rides?

Bus information is posted on the Transportation page of the Lowell Schools web site at www.lowellschools.com. Questions can be directed to Transportation, 987-2540.

When do I submit my student permission slip and census verification form?

These two forms will be given to you by your child's teacher at the open house. Parents are asked to **carefully** review the information on the census form and make any changes (additions or deletions) to the provided information. Please sign and date the form and return it, along with the student permission slip, to your child's classroom teacher **on the first day of school**.

What else do I need to know about as a parent?

Probably lots of things, but these are a few of the important items we would like you to be aware of as the school year begins! More information will be included weekly in the *Murray Lake Messenger* about our many programs, events and activities. For example, each Friday during lunch our School Store is open in the school lobby. Students are able to purchase small school supplies and fun items. The items cost between 5 cents and \$2.00. Proceeds are used to support our student programs.

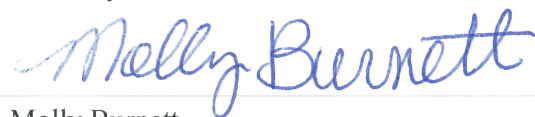
Parents are a **KEY** to the success of our students here at Murray Lake. It takes the work of a team (parents, teachers, staff, and students) to enable our children to be successful. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that each Murray Lake student achieves his or her fullest potential.

I look forward to getting to know all of you better as we move through the school year. Don't forget about our Open House/Parent Night is Tuesday, 8/30/16, 5:00-6:30 pm. I am also very excited to see all of our students on our first day of school, Tuesday, September 6! Please do not ever hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns you may have at mburnett@lowellschools.com or 987-2750. My door is always open to you! Go Red Arrows!

Meet Your Teacher Open House/Parent Night, 8/30/16:

Kindergarten, Grades 1-2 Parent Info Presentation	5:00-5:45
Grades 3, 4, 5 Meet Your Teacher Open House	5:00-5:45
Kindergarten, Grades 1-2 Meet Your Teacher Open House	5:45-6:30
Grades 3-5 Parent Information Presentation	5:45-6:30

Sincerely,



Molly Burnett
Principal

