



# Middletown Public Schools

Patricia Charles Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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August 2013

Dear Middletown Families:

The start of the school year is right around the corner! This letter highlights some important changes at the elementary level. This year elementary school will begin at 8:50 AM. Adult supervision will begin at 8:45, at which time the school doors will be opened. Please do not drop off your child before 8:45 AM.

Another change for 2013-2014 is our *Breakfast in the Classroom* program. It will begin on September 3 at Macdonough, Bielefield, Wesley, Lawrence, and Farm Hill. Snow and Moody Schools will start on November 4. Spencer School will start in January. If a student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, they will also qualify for reduced or no fees for *Breakfast in the Classroom*. A reduced breakfast will cost 30 cents and full priced breakfast will cost \$1.00. Each meal will include milk, a fruit option, and an entrée. The entrees are as follows: Monday - muffin and string cheese, Tuesday – whole grain waffle, Wednesday – whole grain cherry strudel, Thursday – whole wheat bagel and cream cheese, Friday – whole grain mini maple pancakes.

The new *Breakfast in the Classroom* program will provide every child with the opportunity for a healthy breakfast. Students who eat breakfast have improved attention, attendance, behavior, and academic success. Students will pick up their meal as they enter the classroom and will eat it as they begin their academic day. It is the district's goal to offer breakfast to all students by mid-year. A letter with more specific details will be sent home in September.

There are 18 early dismissal days in the elementary school calendar <http://www.mps1.org/calendar/cal1314.pdf> to provide staff time for professional development, collaborative planning, and data team analysis in order to meet the requirements of our Alliance grant, integrate the new Common Core State Standards, and new teacher evaluation plan. I know that these additional days are difficult for working families. To help with this, we will continue to collaborate with the YMCA who offers afterschool programming at each of our elementary schools. Financial assistance is available for qualifying individuals and families. Please consult the district calendar for additional information about schedules at all Middletown schools.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child back to school. We will see you on August 29<sup>th</sup>, our first day of what promises to be a terrific school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Patricia Charles'.

Patricia Charles, Ed.D.  
Superintendent