

Note from the Principal

September 8, 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Labor Day weekend! Distance Learning has begun and although it was sad to see the atrium empty and to not have the opportunity to welcome students and families to the new school year in person this morning, I believe it is going to be a great year! Kindergarteners start their school year on Thursday and we look forward to welcoming our new Bobcats!

The transition into a new school year is always exciting and challenging as we all are getting back into the routine of school. This year poses some new and unique challenges. Our teachers have been working incredibly hard over the past two weeks to prepare for this day. The focus of the first couple of weeks of school will be relationship building and teaching children the essential rituals and routines of the Distance Learning school day and classroom. We want nothing more than for students to smile, make positive connections, and experience success in the first weeks of school. We hope that your children find a sense of connection and joy in their distance learning experiences and end each day wanting to share about all they have learned. We are excited about the school year ahead and look forward to getting to know all our students and families as we work to build and maintain a connected school community even though we are apart.

Please feel free to reach out by phone, email, or in person, with any questions that may arise. I look forward to seeing many of you over the next couple of weeks!

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl
Principal

Announcements

- **Welcome Back Video** - <https://mpls.rev.vbrick.com/sharevideo/07c03423-6fec-4944-9de7-bc36a4ea1f10>
- **Burroughs Distance Learning School Wide Schedule** - The student day during Distance Learning begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Detailed schedules will be communicated by homeroom teachers. Students will not be online for six hours. The school day will include a combination of screen based and non-screen based learning activities.
- **Morning Piano Playing** - Mr. Hensley will continue the morning piano playing tradition. Tune into the [Burroughs School Facebook page](#) mornings from 8:50-9:00 am to see Mr. Hensley. This is a great way for students to get energized for the day ahead.
- **Technology Resources and Support** - If you have questions or need support with student devices, please go to this site <https://source.mpls.k12.mn.us/support-for-your-students>
- **Attendance** - During Distance Learning the top priority is that students are engaged in learning every day. As such, the definition of an absence is when a student, or parent/guardian for elementary students, does not have contact with the teacher on an instructional day. If your child will be absent, please notify the school by calling the attendance line at 612-668-3288.
- **Become a member of the Burroughs Site Council** -The Burroughs Site Council is looking to recruit two new members, one voting member and one alternate, for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. It's a great way to be involved in your child's school. Please use the link below to learn more about Site Council and how to become a member. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNWGu9tGmNOQ05Bo2GjG9OZLKj1U1f2V/view?usp=sharing>
- **School Spirit Fridays** - Celebrate your Burroughs Spirit every Friday. Encourage your children to wear our Burroughs Colors (navy blue and yellow) or any 'Burroughs Wear' they have.
- **Virtual Coffee with the Principal** - Beginning in October, I will be hosting a monthly 'Coffee with the Principal' via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to connect with myself and others in the community throughout the year. The first event will

be held on Friday, October 2 at 9:00 am. Zoom invites will be sent approximately one week prior to each monthly event. The times for this event will alternate between morning and afternoon throughout the school year.

Meet the Burroughs Staff

Ms. Susan Buchholz, 1st grade teacher - Susan is thrilled to be joining the 1st grade team at Burroughs. She has been teaching in Minneapolis for more than 25 years, most recently at Whittier! Susan has taught a variety of grade levels and content areas in here 25 years including has media, gifted and talented, first grade, third grade and most recently kindergarten. She loves working with the younger kids and helping to nurture their lifelong love of learning.

Instructional Insights

Seesaw- Seesaw is an online platform that kindergarten through 4th grade teachers and specialists are using for distance learning. It is a student-driven digital portfolio that allows students to communicate with the teacher, share their work, engage in learning activities and reflect on learning. Seesaw also allows families to see the learning that is happening and communicate with teachers.

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, September 10** - 1st day of Kindergarten
- **Tuesday, September 22** - Site Council 5:00 pm, PTA Meeting 6:30 pm