

## DEAR STINGRAY FAMILIES,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. And, our much-appreciated PTA is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.



## MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



*Hello!* My name is Tracy Gardner and I am excited to join Sexton Elementary as the new Assistant Principal! The 2021-2022 school year will mark my 8th year as an assistant principal. Although born and raised in Maryland, my family has long considered Florida to be our second home. My entire educational career has been with Carroll County Public Schools, located approximately 40 minutes outside of Baltimore. Go Ravens!

As a former kindergarten and first grade teacher, I bring my primary background when working with elementary students. I am certified in the areas of Elementary Education and Educational Leadership, including the ESOL endorsement. With a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, I have experience writing English Language Arts curriculum for Carroll County Public Schools. My philosophy about education is that ALL students can learn and make progress. I believe strongly in the importance of building relationships between students, staff and the community.

Outside of school, I am supported by my husband, Matt, who was a collision repair teacher at our local technical school for the past twenty years. We have three children ages 21, 19 and 10. Our two oldest children will be remaining in Maryland due to their jobs, but we hope they will be joining us in the future. Our 10-year-old daughter is very involved with extra-curricular activities, so she keeps us hopping! In my spare time, I like to read, and I enjoy physical activities, like indoor spinning and yoga.

Currently, I am working with Mr. Pleshe to ensure a smooth transition. I look forward to meeting you, and I hope you have a safe and fun-filled summer!

*Tracy Gardner, Assistant Principal*

## NEW STAFF

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff.

- ✓ We are delighted to welcome two new VPK units to our campus. Ms. Schallert and Mrs. Mallett have joined our VPK team.
- ✓ Our new K,1, & 2 Access teacher is Mrs. Erickson.
- ✓ Joining our second-grade team is Mrs. Arnold.
- ✓ Mr. Smolek will be one of our third-grade teachers.
- ✓ Mr. Walk will be joining the fifth-grade team.
- ✓ Ms. Lee will be our new reading intervention teacher.
- ✓ Ms. Saad will be the new math intervention teacher.
- ✓ Kenneth Daniels will be joining us as our Plant Operations Specialist.
- ✓ Teodora Monova is our new teacher assistant.

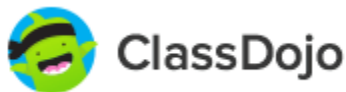
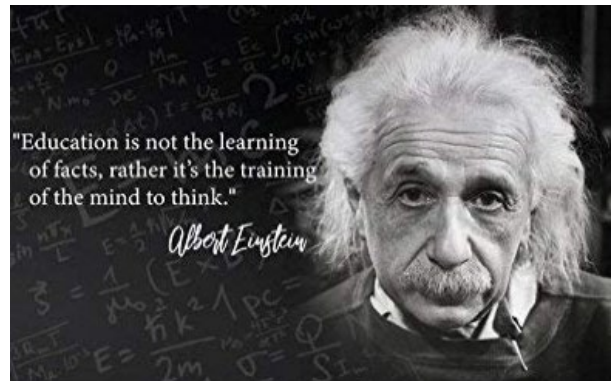


## STUDENT PLACEMENT

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2021-2022 school year.

Careful consideration was given to your child's placement. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. We are eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.



Be sure to read our newsletter each month for updates and any possible changes. Please download and use Class Dojo. Important information is usually shared using this platform.

**UNIFORMS:** As you shop for back to school uniforms, please follow our Uniform Policy here: [School Information / Our Uniform Policy \(pcsb.org\)](#) If you need assistance, please contact the school office or Clothes for Kids at 727-441-5050. [School Supply Lists are also on our website.](#)

Thank you to all who are helping prepare for the new school year. Your commitment to ensuring that Sexton remains a celebrated and successful school is awe-inspiring. I eagerly look forward to greeting students and families again. It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please stop by and say hello. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.



*Tony Pleshe, Principal*



**Our Open House “Meet and Greet” is Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.** Come meet your child’s teacher, see the classroom, and say hi to classmates. Doors are open from 10:00 to 12:00. Be sure to catch our *Title I Annual Meeting* going on in the media center or you can watch it later on our website.

**2021-2022 School Hours are 8:45 to 2:55.**

**Gates open at 8:15.**

**Breakfast is served 8:15 – 8:45.**

- **First Day** of School is Wednesday, **August 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- No School on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day.
- *Mr. Pleshe’s Reading Challenge* starts Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> join us for a special Reading Night here at Sexton.
- PTA Fundraiser starts the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- October 25<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> is Red Ribbon Week along with our Halloween Parade at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to come in costume and enjoy the parade.
- Fall Festival is Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Thanksgiving Week off is November 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Winter Break is December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup> with students returning on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

