Greetings North Forestville Families,

Welcome to school year 2021-2022! Hopefully, you are enjoying your summer, staying safe, engaging in self-care, and spending time with those you love! Truly, life is precious, be sure to savor it on a consistent basis.

I am excited to welcome back some familiar faces as well as embrace and support our new students! Each person brings with them a wealth of experiences and knowledge. I’m honored to work alongside YOU...YOU who are some of the brightest parents and students on the planet!

Our vision is clear: **all students will achieve high academic standards**. Our theme for this year is “We R.I.S.E!” R- relationships and rigor; I – inclusion and inspiration; S – strategic and skillful; E – educate and empower! I look forward to the new school year with high expectations and much anticipation! Each new school year is a new beginning and I sincerely believe that each of us is well equipped for the exceptional year ahead. **WE are a Family and we R.I.S.E. together!** We will continue to motivate, educate, and accelerate all of our FALCONS as we are the **Fearless Achievers Learning Conquering Onward Never Stopping!!**
Again, “Thank YOU” for your perseverance as you helped us accomplish some tremendous tasks during our challenging 2020-2021 school year.

Even as I pen this letter to you, I know this year holds many unknowns. Yet, what I do know about our North Forestville Family is that we support, work well with, and understand one another. This year is the one opportunity for students to be in a specific grade. We have the opportunity to positively impact the life of each student for a lifetime.

Our Transition Program is now our S.E.A.D. program which stands for Social Emotional Academic Development. You’ll receive more wonderful information regarding this fresh approach for some of our sweethearts, our scholars! We have three S.M.A.R.T. Goals this year – one for RELA, one for mathematics, and one for attendance. In summation of our S.M.A.R.T. Goals, our main goal this year is to increase our number of sweethearts who are proficient and advanced in RELA, mathematics, and science. Other goals we have this year is to increase individualized instruction for all students to support significant achievement in all curriculum areas, across all student groups, and to increase our attendance rate.

To support these efforts, we will focus on intentional professional development, peer observations, collaborative planning, routine analysis of qualitative and quantitative student data, and strategic coaching and support.

I can hardly believe that school is starting on September 8, 2021! Take time over the next few weeks to reflect on your practice. In addition, please review the Framework for Teaching (FfT) to guide your instruction and propel student achievement through focused instruction, planning, technology integration, implementing, and monitoring our multiple data sources. Think about who you will be and how you will serve in the coming school year, keep in mind we are a school community, a school family, and we will do this together! Most importantly, think about your why...why is it that you are here? Our front bulletin board theme will be: We R.I.S.E. – Our Why and it will include a compilation of our Whys.

During pre-service week, we will take a deeper look into setting professional goals, setting individual learning goals for our students, and the systemic focus on these major principles, Change-Transformation-Innovation, and Cultural Responsiveness. Last year we took a brief look into the book, Biased by Dr., Jennifer Eberhardt. We will continue with this work as well as begin our professional learning community using the book Driven By Data 2.0 by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo.

Please mark your calendars and take note of the important dates below:

**September 3, 2021**
Student Orientation/Mock Day (all students). At this time, this will be a virtual event. Stay tuned to our respective Google Meets links that will be shared.

**September 6, 2021**
Schools and offices closed.

**September 8, 2021**
First day of school for all students. FULL IN-PERSON instruction will begin with Homeroom class at 8:00 a.m., and the school day will end at 1:55 p.m. It is critically important that students are on time everyday of the school year. North Forestville is a mandatory uniform school, therefore all students are expected to be in uniform beginning September 8, 2021. Our uniform is comprised of navy blue bottoms, and baby blue polo shirts for grades pre-K – 4. Solid colored, rubber bottomed shoes (i.e. white, black, blue,
brown). Our seniors of the building, our 5th graders, are following the same uniform policy; however, they wear a white polo shirt. Shirts are to be tucked into their bottoms. Belts, if worn, are to be solid colored (i.e. white, black, blue or brown).

**September 14, 2021**
*Tuesday Tea Talk – 7:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m.* This is a time where our parents can (as they are dropping their child off to school) receive a free cup of tea and a breakfast treat and have light conversation with our administrative team.

**Back to School Night – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Virtual Meeting. The link will be sent to you.

**September 16, 2021**
Yom Kippur - Schools and offices closed.

**September 21, 2021**
Parent/Teacher Empowerment Team - 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting. The link will be sent to you.

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**October 1, 2021**
Professional Development – Schools closed for all students.

Please make sure that you are wearing a mask and know that all safety guidelines will be in effect. Also, bring your charged laptop along with all of your other school supplies (a list of school supplies is located on our school’s website).

I can’t wait to see you all on September 8, 2021! You may arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. as breakfast will be delivered to all classrooms for all students at no cost. Also know that this year, lunch is free to all students. When you arrive on September 8, 2021, go to the back of the school to find your teacher waiting for you near our playground area!

If you have questions regarding any of these items, please don’t hesitate to contact me at Falecia.mcmillian@pgcps.org. Please take care of yourselves and know that together, **WE R.I.S.E.**

Yours in Education,

Proud Principal