

## Marlborough Elementary School: Better Together For Children

As we start the new school year, it is always helpful to reflect as well as refocus. The last three school years were very tough for schools, children, families, and communities, but we are hopeful and resilient and eager to inspire our students so that they can thrive in learning and in life. The return to normal operations which began last spring will continue, and we are excited to host welcoming school events, with the support of our many parent volunteers.

Our students are amazing human beings, curious, kind, and hard-working. In our quest to educate the whole child, our goal is for each child to develop academically as well as socially-emotionally and to their fullest potential. Our staff is aligning our curriculum, instruction, and assessment methods within and across grade levels to promote student academic success, love of learning, and healthy sense of self. We are excited to be publishing the *MES Academic Program Guide* to make our rich instructional program more known to families and the public.

Our staff works tirelessly to provide a supportive, joyful learning environment so that students feel great about school while persevering. In support of academic aims are our school values of respect, responsibility, and safety. Our staff will be reinvigorating our schoolwide positive behavioral support approach as well as continue to research social-emotional programs that best align to the assets we want to help our students develop.

We have collective energy around promoting instructional practice that is consistent with knowledge of child learning and development, effective pedagogy, and the needs of each student. We have developed our *Vision for Teaching and Learning*, a powerful and unifying tool for our educators as they reach and teach students.

I am deeply honored to work with the team of educators at MES who are enthusiastic, intelligent, creative, and care deeply for students. Our teachers are continuous learners themselves. For example, over one dozen MES teachers are enrolled in LETRS training, an empowering professional development course of study for instructors of reading, spelling, and related language skills. Many others are pursuing specialized training in graduate coursework.

We are grateful to the children, families, and community of Marlborough for valuing the importance of a strong elementary education and supporting us in our efforts. For more information about our vision, beliefs, goals, and action-steps, please see the *MES Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan* posted on the school website.