



Dear Parents and Guardians,

October 7, 2018

I hope you have had a great start to the school year. I have heard so many wonderful things about you and your children from our teachers and staff. It is now time to begin thinking and planning with you so that we effectively **transition** everyone to the **changes** ahead. Those two words, “**transition**” and “**change**,” are very different words to me. **Change** is the event yet to come. It is what will be new or what will happen. (For example, your child will change from his/her current school to Cherry Park Elementary on January 7.) The **transition** is how we respond to the change. It is what happens inside of us as we adapt to the new events and circumstances. My goal is to plan for an effective transition and a productive change. We want to celebrate starting a new school family and help everyone find a new place to belong.

I have been an educator for twenty-eight years and this is my nineteenth year as an elementary principal. (That just means I’m old and yes, I know that many of you are my former students.) I have been privileged to help develop second language programs most of my administrative career. I believe we are opening doors of opportunity for your children so they can positively impact others all over the world. Your children will be global leaders in business, government, and nonprofits simply because they can connect with people speaking other languages. Our goal at Cherry Park is to unlock those cultural and academic doors so your child can thrive in a global environment. This is the kind of future that my wife, Jan (who is also a chemistry teacher), and I want for our children, Whitney and Joey. Whitney is currently on foreign study in Madrid, Spain and Joey is taking his third level of language in high school. We are so proud of them.

So, how are we getting ready for the transitions ahead? What’s the latest? Here are a few updates.

1. We are on track to complete construction within the next month. Punch list items will still need to be done but we are in good shape.
2. We have hired 95% of our staff already and they are phenomenal.
3. Classroom furniture has been ordered and is scheduled for delivery in November. Other startup equipment orders (including books for the media center) are being placed and materials and supplies should arrive in plenty of time.

4. Our safety and security plans will align with Sullivan Middle School and it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Roldan and his staff. This will be a fantastic partnership for both schools.
5. Parking lots and drives are finished. Come and drive through when you can.
6. Playgrounds are being graded and some equipment is ready for installation.
7. We have had our first Cherry Park staff meeting and discussed timelines.

As we move ahead, here are a few dates to put on your calendar. First, we will have a **Parent Information Meeting on Wednesday, November 7 from 6:30-7:30 PM** in the Sullivan Middle Auditorium. During that meeting, we will provide plenty of information about how we will transition our school family. You can go to this Parent Transition Survey Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/pe01Z7doAwjZxyjt1> to begin asking questions that you have. We will take these and have a Frequently Asked Questions Page on our school website when it is launched. Second, we will have our **Open House on Wednesday, December 12 from 6:00-7:30 PM**. This will be the time when you can come and tour the school and further ask any questions that you might have. All of our staff will be there to help you in any way needed. We will also have a **Follow-up Open House on Monday morning, December 17 from 8:30-9:30 AM**. This will be a time for you to simply walk around and see the building if you could not come on December 12.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you to start our new school family. As the fall moves ahead, know that you will begin to hear more and more from me. I appreciate all that you are doing to invest in your child's current school. Please continue to direct all current daily questions and concerns to your child's teachers and school staff. Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Kelsey and Mrs. Hyatt have been so supportive in this process and have helped me make great decisions.

We will see you all too soon.

Patrick Maness, Principal
Cherry Park Elementary