



Parents and Guardians,

Transition As I have mentioned before, we want to help you and your children respond well to changing from their current school to Cherry Park. Remember that the **change** is moving schools. The **transition** is our response to the change of moving schools. William Bridges, author of Managing Transitions, says the first step in this process is recognizing and acknowledging the **endings** that will come. Who will we leave? What roles do we have that may end? What current relationships will change? What will be over for us and our kids? These endings can often lead to **denial, anxiety, shock and chaos**. We can feel that things are out of control. During this first stage of transition, we all need **empathy, validation and vision**. We want to provide this for our kids. We need to help them express appreciation for their past experiences and thank those who have meant so much. We want to look clearly in the rear view mirror but also look forward to all that is ahead. During this process, we get to help model for our little people how to respond well to change.

Parent Information Meeting Our Parent Information Meeting will be this Wednesday, November 7 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Sullivan Auditorium. We will give you a chance to meet parents from other schools and provide answers to some of the big questions you have. You are welcome to bring your children but know that the content and format will be more oriented for adults. (We will not do any tours of the Cherry Park School then. That will happen at our Open House on December 12 from 6:00-7:30 PM.) We will ask that you complete a Transportation Survey for each of your children at the meeting. Please plan to park in the lot beside the auditorium and the lower parking lot that you can access by turning into Cherry Park Elementary from the intersection of Cherry Road and Ebinport Road. If you park in the lower lot, you will need to walk up the ramp towards Caswell Street and then walk up to Sullivan's Auditorium.

School Improvement Council The SIC is an advisory council that addresses issues related to school improvement. You can click on the [SC School Improvement Council Handbook](#) for more information about the functions and rules that govern this group. We will elect six parents and we would like to have representation from all three schools if possible. We are asking that parents interested in being on the SIC election ballot email Mr. Maness by November 11 (pmaness@rhmail.org). We will hold elections before Thanksgiving and our first meeting will be Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 PM in the Sullivan Professional Development Room near the Cherry Park school entrance. (Look for the doors below the white arch on the right.)

Parent Teacher Organization The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. This group will meet on Monday, November

26 at 6:30 PM to begin organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Sullivan Professional Development Room near the Cherry Park entrance. (Look for the doors below the white arch on the right.)

Listening Sessions We want to hear from you. We want to know what you think has worked well at your school and what you would like to see happen at Cherry Park Elementary in the future. We will also offer opportunities for you to ask questions. We will hold Listening Sessions at the following days and times: Tuesday, November 13 at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM and Monday, November 19 at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. These will be in the Sullivan Professional Development Room to the right of the Cherry Park Entrance. We will schedule additional sessions as needed.

Yearbooks We will not have a yearbook for Cherry Park Elementary this year. Much of the work that needs to be done needs to happen in the fall and we will need all the time possible in the first few months of school to help transition effectively. All three schools will have immersion students in their yearbooks and if you would like one, please place your order at your home school.

Questions Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and many will be answered at our Parent Information Meeting but all will be answered on our school website once it is live.

Thanks for all that you are doing to make a difference in your child. I look forward to all that is ahead.

Mr. Maness, Principal