



## GERMANTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

123 Main Street, Germantown, NY 12526-5338

August 17, 2023

Hello Clipper families!

I hope this letter finds you well and that there may be a part of you that is excited for a new school year! Like all summer breaks, we have been busy preparing for the Fall and are excited to welcome all our learners, old and new 😊. To help smooth the transition from summer to the school year, I want to provide you as much information that may be helpful.

School Bus Orientation for new riders (optional)  
Superintendent's Conference Day / No School  
PK - 12 New Student Orientation  
First Day of School  
PK - 12 Open House  
*Welcome Meeting 5:30; All Classrooms 6pm*

Tuesday, August 29th, 9am  
Tuesday & Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1pm - 2pm  
Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Orientations**

We want to make sure our Clippers are feeling comfortable prior to their first day of school. We are offering two orientations to help ease the transition back to school. Both orientations are optional.

#### **School Bus Orientation for new riders - Tuesday, August 29th, 9am**

For those students who may be riding the bus for the first time, we will have a School Bus located at the front entrance of the school. We will practice boarding and exiting the bus, safety protocol while riding, and crossing the "street" to board and enter the bus. The bus will then ride through the parking lot and return to the main entrance. Parents are welcome to join their child on the bus, but we encourage parents to remain curbside to establish that first step of independence.

## **PK - 12 New Student Orientation - Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1pm - 2pm**

We will have our older students and staff members available to guide students to guide our new Clippers and parents to visit their classroom and meet their teacher. Feel free to bring along any school supplies to have stored in the classroom as well.

If your child would like a tour of the school prior to September 6th, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to arrange a time 😊

## **Open House**

A Districtwide Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 20th. At 5:30pm, we invite PK-12 parents and guardians to join us in the Auditorium for our Welcome Back Meeting. At 6pm, families are invited to visit their child's classroom and meet the teachers. We hope you are able to join us! More information will follow.

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

Much like last year, we will open our front doors for arrival at 7:45 and ask that all students arrive no later than 8:00. If you are dropping off your child(ren) and need time to unbuckle students from car seats, we ask that you park in the parking lot to allow yourself that unhurried time. We always have staff at the front door to greet students and walk them into the building. Parents are asked to say their goodbyes at the entrance and our staff will be certain to help each child get to their classroom and meet their new friends. For students riding the bus, they may exit the bus to have breakfast in the cafeteria.

7:45	Doors open for student arrival.
7:45-8:00	Breakfast is available in the cafeteria for Grades K – 12. Breakfast will no longer be served in the classrooms this year, except for our PreK students.

For students not riding the school bus at dismissal, we ask families to form a vehicle queue along the Main Street entrance sidewalk. We will provide name cards to be placed on dashboards, so that we can radio for a student to be brought out to the car by one of our staff members. We ask all adults to remain in their cars while they wait for their child.

2:40	Pre K and K students released to families picking up.
2:45	Grades 1 – 6 students released to families picking up. <b>Please have children picked up no later than 3:00.</b>
2:50-2:55	School buses depart.

## **Breakfast and Lunch**

Meal Prices have changed for this school year. The Elementary Breakfast is \$1.75 and the Elementary Lunch is \$2.75. I encourage you to visit our website for further information and Free and Reduced Lunch Applications [Food Services | Germantown Central School District \(germantowncsd.org\)](https://www.germantowncsd.org). K-12 students are offered breakfast in the cafeteria from 7:45-8am. PreK students will have breakfast in the classroom.

## **CAP – Clipper After-School Program**

Our after-school program, once again under the experienced direction of Mrs. Janet Crawford, is available to all district children at a reasonable cost. Information and registration forms may be found on our website ([https://www.germantowncsd.org/](https://www.germantowncsd.org)). Completed applications may be sent to the attention of the elementary office.

## **Social and Emotional Health**

We are ever grateful for funding provided by the Germantown Student Education Foundation (GSEF). Among several key projects, it has allowed us to create a Calm Room, a space designed to be a supportive therapeutic environment which assists children in self-calming efforts by offering them a designated space to relax and self-regulate. Overseen by our counseling team, we anticipate it will be a strong addition to our wide array of mental health supports already provided at Germantown.

## **Teaching Models**

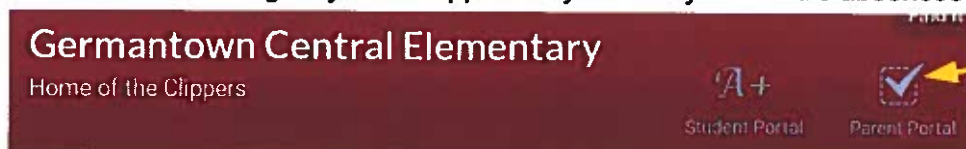
We are adding Integrated Co-Teaching to our varied models of instruction. This is to ensure greater access and opportunities for all students. Please see the attached description, which provides a greater depth of detail. We are excited and proud of this new initiative, which ultimately supports all students to greater success.

## **PTSA**

Our PTSA is planning a robust calendar of student and family activities for this year, and we ask for your involvement in any way possible. Join our [GCS PTSA](#) Facebook page to find out more about events and meeting dates. Our first meeting will be held on September 13th at 5:30pm.

## **Parent Portal and Current Information**

We encourage you to visit the Parent Portal on our website. It will prompt you to update your contact information and will give you the opportunity to view your child's absences and report cards.



## **Student Handbook**

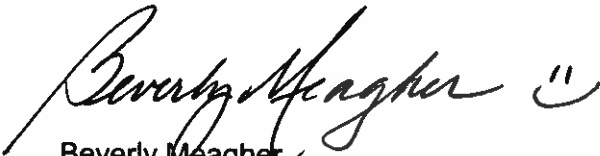
In past years, we have sent home a copy of our Student Handbook. This year, we will be publishing the handbook on our website for easier access. Should you wish to have a hard copy for your home, please call us and we will send a printed version home with your child. During the first week of school, we will review the student handbook with all students.

## **Safety Protocols**

Safety planning is an on-going part of our work. We are currently installing new cameras around the building and exploring new initiatives to strengthen the safety of our children and staff. We will communicate new protocols as they occur. Our goal is always to keep our students and staff safe, while ensuring forward learning.

Again, I heartily welcome your conversation and positive input throughout this coming year. Let us always keep our students the primary focus of our work together.

Warmest Regards,



Beverly Meagher  
Elementary Principal

**Get to know our team this year 😊**

We are excited to welcome many new and familiar faces to our team this year!

<b>Pre Kindergarten:</b>	Emma Brooks, Teresa Cavanaugh, Mary Eidsens, Lucy Henry, Kerri Mills
<b>Kindergarten:</b>	Heather Christiana, Jessica Daley, Lyndsey Fink, Amy Fountain, Ashley Margielewski, Brenda Seymour
<b>1st Grade:</b>	Diane Delamater, Lyndsey Fink, Karen Krager, Karyn Long, Brittany Newman, Carole Seeley
<b>2nd Grade:</b>	Claire Hinkein, Rachel Ide, Sarah Kalimeras, Karyn Moore, Melissa Mudge, Kylie Pudney, Anthony Smith, Tamera Connelly
<b>3rd Grade:</b>	Darcie Colwell, Jen Graziano, Mary Mitchell, Karyn Moore, Susan Schuhknecht, Helen Stumbo
<b>4th Grade:</b>	Liz Melino, Kim Sanzo, Jen Tanner, Jen Taylor
<b>5th Grade:</b>	Liz Bathrick, Kristen Hoffman, Megan Phelan, Mike Pudney, Jen Tanner, Liz Trachta
<b>6th Grade:</b>	Liz Bathrick, Jessica Brannen, Casey Britton, Megan Dodge, Denise Fried, Christina Tillou
<b>Special Areas:</b>	Hannah Benham (Computer), Mike Delpozzo (Art), Brooke Hapeman (PE), Brett Holmes (PE), Aurora Lighthart (Health), Emily McQuaid (Chorus), Tina Pudney (PE), Charlie Raftery (Music), Cheryl Werner (Library)
<b>Counseling Team:</b>	Renee Grzeskow (Social Worker), Heather Lincoln (Social Worker), Shannon Miller (School Psychologist), Karyn Schassler (Counselor)
<b>Support Services:</b>	Shirley Dorion (Speech & Language), Kevin Flanagan (Speech & Language), McKenzie Martin (Physical Therapist), Jessica Proctor (ENL), Kim Slingerland (Occupational Therapist)
<b>Health Office:</b>	Tammy Lyons, Andrea Takacs
<b>Elementary Office:</b>	Teresa Kreig (Secretary), Leah Martin (Attendance Aide), Beverly Meagher (Principal)
<b>Officers:</b>	Ken Kellenbenz, Jerry Rowell, Dave Schmitz



# **GERMANTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## **Germantown CSD Integrated Co-Teaching Model**

### **Mission:**

Our mission is to provide an inclusive and collaborative learning environment in every classroom. We believe that integrated co-teaching can help every student achieve their full potential by providing access to a range of teaching styles and personalized support. Our goal is to create a classroom culture that values diversity, encourages teamwork, and fosters individual growth for all students.

### **Vision:**

Our vision is to create a community of learners where students of all abilities can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We envision a classroom where all students receive the support they need to succeed. Integrated co-teaching provides a pathway to inclusion and equity in education. Our goal is to create a culture of collaboration among teachers, students, and families that is based on mutual respect, open communication, and a commitment to academic excellence. We aim to empower our students to become lifelong learners, prepared to be productive contributors to society.

### **Description:**

Integrated co-teaching (ICT) is a collaborative teaching model where a general education teacher and a special education teacher work together to support students with diverse learning needs in the same classroom. The two teachers collaborate to plan and deliver instruction, develop personalized learning plans, and make instructional decisions that meet the diverse needs of all students.

Instruction in these classrooms may take various forms to offer more opportunities for small- group learning, immediate and responsive feedback, as well as other flexible lessons and learning environment, ensuring all students have the opportunity to succeed.