

Dear Future Kindergarten Families!

I am so excited that you will be coming to West Park Elementary School next year. We have a great team of teachers who help you learn the fundamentals of reading, writing, and math. My job as principal is to ensure that every child is cared for and his or her needs are met. While we cannot meet in person as we usually do in the spring due to the COVID-19 closure, we will be creating virtual orientation experiences for your family. **I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in August at West Park Elementary School.**

Many of you might already know me, as I have been a teacher and worked with Lake County School District for over 20 years. Your children are the most important customers I have, so please know that I always welcome any concerns or celebrations you'd like to share with me. My email is kfitzsimmons@lakecountyschools.net and my phone is 719-486-6890.

Registration packets will be sent out the first week of July to the address that you have on file with the center. It will include directions for how to register online as well as when we will have open house help nights if you would like to register here with us. It will also contain information about making your family orientation conference appointment and teacher assignments.

The family Orientation conferences will be August 10 and 11, and are great way for us to spend quality one on one time with your student! During family orientation conferences, life touch will be here to take school pictures. **Please make sure that you bring a copy of your birth certificate and shot records for family orientation conferences.**

You will also be able to learn about **afterschool programming and transportation**. Project Dream is our afterschool program. It operates Monday through Thursday until 545 in the afternoon and you will have a chance to sign up in August during orientation conferences. Next year a designated adult or parent must be present to greet all kindergartners off of the bus. If the designated adult is not present at the bus stop the bus will bring the kindergartner back to West Park for us to contact the parents for a pick up. We hope this doesn't happen as we like the end of each child stay to be calm and happy!

We aim for students to be present at least 95% of the time. Please plan on sending your child every day that they are healthy, as we do very important work every day in kindergarten!

Kindergarten is a **big step** from preschool and we are so happy and excited to have your children coming to us. Over the summer please work on building their **independence** in dressing themselves, going the bathroom and washing their hands by themselves, and not taking a nap. The more you talk with your child and expose them to letters and number, the better set they will be for kindergarten!

Such a great year of learning and growth awaits your kindergarteners!

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Kathleen Fitzsimmons

West Park Elementary School Principal

