

Roger Sherman Elementary School

250 Fern Street

Fairfield, CT 06824

Phone (203) 255-8330



Source: Worldartsme.com

Dr. Ian M. Banner, Principal

The beginning is the most important part of the work

– Plato

August 19, 2019

Dear Parents and Families:

We want to welcome you all to a new school year, especially our kindergarten friends who are joining the Sherman family for the first time. We are very excited to be seeing you soon and we can't wait for you to join us on this exciting journey. As such, we wanted to inform you of some important information pertaining to the new school year, as well as recent hires and those new members who will be joining the Sherman family of staff.

I would first like to begin by thanking Mr. Ceste and Mr. Pena, who despite all of the many construction projects taking place in and outside of the building this summer, they again worked their magic in preparing the building for everyone's return. Their work this summer has again been unmatched and simply put: Without them, any and all other work to educate our children would be impossible. Also, I would like to thank Ms. Davis for stretching herself across two buildings in preparing for her role at Jennings and for helping Mrs. Ottavio—our new EPF—be ready for joining us here at Sherman. As such, we are wishing Ms. Davis well in her new setting and hoping she enjoys another productive year. I'd like to extend a thank you to Mrs. Kerrigan for popping in during her summer vacation and taking care of some office-related items. As I have said before and I'll say here again, this highlights the wonderful people we are blessed to call our Sherman family.

Class Placements

Class lists will be available for viewing in Infinite Campus (IC) sometime late afternoon on Wednesday, August 21. If you require help accessing IC, please email REGHELP@fairfieldschools.org.

Please make note that placements are final, as the teachers have already begun preparing for the start of the school year. It is also important to note that a great deal of thought, time and effort were dedicated to balancing the groups in every grade level in June. Collaboration among teachers allowed every student to be placed in well-balanced learning environments, which will enable students to access the curriculum appropriately and be able to function as reasonably independently as possible and comparable to his/her peer group. This means that the discussions that you may have had with last year's teachers and/or myself will have been honored during those placement meetings to the maximum extent possible.

School Supplies

There are no school supply lists, and as such, the school will provide your child with everything they need to make for a successful start to the year. However, there may be a few minor items—nothing of which will be critical—that each grade level requests that you acquire. These items will be communicated to you via teacher letters towards the end of this week and into next.

Important Events and Dates

Kindergarten orientation and students new to Sherman Wednesday, August 28 from 9:00 – 10:00	Kindergarten students should enter the building at the main office and meet the teachers in the All Purpose Room (APR). Additional details will be provided at that time, and the teachers will then escort the students and parents directly to the classrooms. All other students new to Sherman should report to the Library Media Center (LMC) by entering the building by the main office and will be met there by a member of staff.
First day of school Thursday, August 29 NB. <i>Tears and Cheers</i> will take place in the APR at 9:00.	On the first day of school, staff will be out to meet and escort the younger ones to their classrooms. The first bell rings at 8:45, and the second bell rings at 8:55, which is when all students are expected to be in the building and in their classrooms. Students will be dismissed at 3:30.
Back-to-School Night/Open House Thursday, September 19	Beginning at 6:00 – 6:45pm for grades K-2. My short presentation and remarks will begin at 6:45 in the APR. Class visits will follow from 7:15 – 8:00pm for grades 3-5.
Picture Day Wednesday, September 11	More specific information will follow

Staff Updates

As the number of students in each grade level changes from year to year, so must the number of teachers in that grade level. Thus, there has been movement this year to accommodate this, which I feel include some exciting changes.

Additionally, we have three teachers who will be starting the school year on maternity leave and will return either before the holiday break in December, or immediately following. These are:

- Mrs. Jamison (Kindergarten)
- Mrs. DiPaola (1st grade)
- Mrs. Kopchik (2nd grade)

Communication regarding substitutes covering and the teacher's return dates will be forthcoming and sent only to the parents of the students in that teacher's class.

Additionally, we will be joined by the following staff members:

- Lauren Noonan (STEAM and Gifted and Talented teacher)
- Susan Welch (Spanish teacher)
- Katie DeAngelo (part-time strings teacher)
- Jessica Ottavio (Elementary Program facilitator)
- Erica Markarian (intern)
- Brian Farenga (building sub)

Building Renovation Reminder

As I mentioned in my previous letter, new lockers will be arriving this week and installation will begin. This process may possibly continue up until August 28—the last day before school officially begins for students.

Websites and PTA

We encourage you to remain or become familiar with our school's website (<http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/sherm/>), from which you can also access our PTA information, and the district website (<http://fairfieldschools.org>). A great deal of pertinent information can be found at these online locations.

We also encourage you, if you haven't already, to become a member of our PTA. As a member of the PTA, you will receive all of the relevant information required to do so, as well as upcoming events and meetings in upcoming communication.

We welcome all of our new staff, students and parents, as well as those of you returning to Sherman for the 2019-2020 school year. As always, we cannot wait to see you all soon and to begin another wonderful school year together.

Yours truly,

Dr. Ian M. Banner

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