

## **SALT BROOK SCHOOL**

**40 Maple Street,**

**New Providence, NJ 07974**

**(908) 464-7100**

**Jean M. Drexinger, Principal**

**Jonathan Firetto, Assistant Principal**

August, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to Salt Brook School for the 2020 -2021 school year! I would like to welcome back our returning students and families and hope you all had an amazing summer. To our new students and families who have recently joined Salt Brook, a heartfelt welcome. We are excited to have you join our Salt Brook family and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

I would like to introduce you to our new staff members who will be joining Salt Brook for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Each new staff member went through an extensive interview process. I am confident that they will be a nice addition to the Salt Brook community, will work hard to teach their curriculums, and effectively collaborate with parents working together for the benefit of all students who walk through our doors each day.

- **Mrs. Brenda Avila (ELL Teacher)**, is excited to join New Providence as an ELL (English Language Learners) teacher. Mrs. Avila comes to us with 20 years of teaching experience! Her most recent position was at the Timothy Christian School where she was the International Student Coordinator & ESL Educator/Program Developer. Mrs. Avila will be joining Mrs. Leonard and working in our World Language and ELL program.
- **Mrs. Chelsea Corcoran (Long-Term Substitute 2J)**, most recently taught in a 2nd Grade Classroom in Norwood, NJ. Mrs. Corcoran is a graduate of Rutgers University and Montclair State University. She holds certifications in both elementary education and special education. Mrs. Corcoran has worked with Mrs. Jebesen this summer to prepare the classroom and familiarize herself with the curriculum. She is committed to helping all of her students find success. Mrs. Corcoran is thrilled to be working in New Providence and excited to meet her students.

- **Ms. Laura Freeman (Long-Term Substitute)**, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina. While in North Carolina, Ms. Freeman taught fifth grade. Most recently, she has been a member of the EDU Staff where she completed both long term and short term substitute assignments. Ms. Freeman has been assigned to Salt Brook as a permanent daily substitute and is eager and ready to assist in classrooms where needed!
- **Mrs. Danielle Gervasi (Co-Teacher Long-Term Substitute Class 3HD)**. Mrs. Gervasi is a graduate of Kean University where she received a B.A. in Elementary and Special Education. A certified elementary education and special education teacher, Mrs. Gervasi recently completed student teaching in Grade 1. She has been trained in the Readers and Writers Workshop Model as well as the Go Math program. Mrs. Gervasi is currently working closely with Mrs. Heaslip to prepare the classroom and further familiarize herself with the curriculums. She is looking forward to working with Mrs. Heaslip and meeting the students in Class 3HD.
- **Mrs. Rachel Kane (Long-Term Substitute KA and KB)**, is a graduate of the University of South Florida. A certified elementary school teacher, Mrs. Kane comes to us from the Bernards Township School District where she recently completed maternity leave positions in Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade. Mrs. Kane has worked with Mrs. Sebastian this summer to prepare the classroom and familiarize herself with the curriculum. She is looking forward to working with the students and to maintaining the high standards that the New Providence teachers set in their classrooms.
- **Ms. Theodora Scott (Long-Term Substitute LLD 3)**, comes to us with six years teaching experience. She recently relocated from Florida where she taught in a self-contained special education classroom. Ms. Scott is certified in both Elementary Education and Special Education. In addition, she has her Orton Gillingham Teacher Certification. Ms. Scott has been working with Mrs. Johnson to prepare the classroom and familiarize herself with the curriculums. She is looking forward to working with the students and to maintaining the high standards that the New Providence teachers set in their classrooms.
- **Mrs. Erika Vanadia (LLD 1 teacher)**, a graduate of The College of New Jersey Mrs. Vanadia is dually certified in elementary education and special education. Prior to coming to Salt Brook, Mrs. Vanadia was a special education teacher in Vernon Township. While in Vernon, she taught in the Grade 1 self contained LLD program as well as co-teaching and Resource Room classrooms. Mrs. Vanadia taught in our Extended Year program and has already met many of her students. She is excited to be working with all of her students this year and is looking forward to guiding them in their educational journey!

While we have spent considerable time this summer preparing for a school opening like no other, our focus has always been our students. We are thrilled to have our students back in our classrooms filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. As in the past, our goals will be to ensure that **ALL** of our students feel connected, that **ALL** students are engaged in new learning and experiences, and that **EVERY** child feels valued and “at home”.

The Spring of 2020 challenged us all to find a “new normal”, connected us in ways we never thought possible, and required our teachers to use technology in authentic ways by experimenting with the variety of resources made available. We learned that teaching in the classroom with technology was one thing, but that teaching through technology was a whole different experience. We are fortunate that we had that experience and now are prepared to embark on the 2020 -2021 school year with a comprehensive program for all of our students. To assist our families, the District is offering tutorials via the new NP Parent/Student website [NP Parent and Student Site](#). I encourage you to visit this site frequently as it is a wonderful resource to support remote and hybrid learning.

This year, the students will find many things that are the same, but they will also experience some things that are different. Please be sure to take some time to sit with your child(ren) and watch our school video [Welcome Back Salt Brook Tigers](#) which outlines and models those procedures that may be different. In this video we stress the 3M's, Distance Matters, Masks Matter, and Clean Hands Matter! We will continue to reinforce our 3M's daily with the students and assist them as they transition back to school.

Normal is such a simple word and it is our goal at Salt Brook to not only find our new normal, but to use this time as a learning experience that will forever impact the learning environment of SB. This year there will be new types of learning experiences in our classrooms. I graciously ask for your patience as our teachers adjust to their “new normal” and explore innovative ways to reach all of their in person and remote learners simultaneously. Please understand that things may not be perfect in the beginning, but know that we will be working very hard to modify and adjust as needed.

Communication will be key this year. Our district and school websites will continually be updated and I will send home relevant information as needed. Please refer to our website for more information and helpful links. [New Providence School District](#). It is important for parents of returning students to update their child's information as well as acknowledge District policies and agreements before the first day of school, September 8, 2020. Included is the iPad Acknowledge and Consent, which all Parents/Guardians must sign off on before the start of the school year. Parents can complete this process by following the instructions in the email sent on August 24, 2020 from the district or by visiting the district homepage and clicking on Student

Registration under site shortcuts [Student Registration](#). If you are not able to access your child's account to complete this process, please contact the main office immediately.

In closing, while our Fall may not be "normal," our learning will not only continue, but it will thrive! We can't wait to move on to the next phase of learning under Covid-19 and as always all returning and new students to Salt Brook will be welcomed with open arms (from 6 feet away) to our community. Together, we will continue to grow!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jeannie Drexinger

Principal