



JOHN J. FLYNN ELEMENTARY
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Dear Flynn Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! The staff members at Flynn are very excited to welcome your students back for the new school year! We hope your summer has been enjoyable, and that you and your students are looking forward to the growth that will occur over this school year. This letter provides logistics to start the year. You may also find the supply list, and the District calendar on Flynn's web page.

Background on Mr. Schmitt, Principal of Flynn

I am beginning my 34th year with the Eau Claire Area School District. I came to Eau Claire in 1990 and found it to be a wonderful place to learn and grow. I started my career teaching at North High School for 16 years before working at the Administration Building in a variety of roles (Curriculum, Assessment, Technology, and Teaching & Learning). I also lead the Eau Claire Virtual School. The staff for that school are also located at Flynn Elementary School.

Background on Flynn Elementary School

Flynn is one of the 14 elementary schools in the Eau Claire Area School District. Built in 2002, it replaced Boyd Elementary School on Main Street. Flynn is a beautiful school built with the mindset that natural light in every learning space will help to maintain a peaceful environment and one that helps continue to connect students to the outdoors. Flynn has large classrooms, wide hallways, and individual lockers for each child. Flynn is also a school that was designed and built with energy conservation in mind. As a school we practice earth-friendly behaviors and continue to be good stewards of our shared environment.

Flynn, a school of peace

Flynn Elementary is an International Peace Site. Part of World Citizen Peace, international peace sites like Flynn help to empower communities to educate its residents to live in a peaceful world. Locations like Flynn, commit to five "Peace Actions":

Seek peace within yourself and others

Reach out in service

Protect the environment

Respect diversity

Be a responsible citizen of the world

As we travel far and wide with our families, our family groups and others, we take our peace with us. This is why you will see maps of locations around the world where students, staff and friends of Flynn bring peace on their travels in the front lobby of the building. If you would like to learn more about peace sites around the world, go to: www.peacesites.org

Welcome Back Day

Welcome Back Day is on Friday, September 1. We will welcome families from **7:00 AM – 9:30 AM**, and from **11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**. These times were determined from a family survey conducted during our last Family Teacher Conferences. Students will attend classes in person for a full day beginning September 5. (Half of the Kindergarten students will come on September 5, the other half on September 6, and all of them on September 7.) A separate letter regarding this day is included with this mailing.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

School begins at 8:40 AM each day and ends at 3:40 PM. Students riding the bus will arrive around 8:30 AM. Supervision on the playground will begin at 8:25 AM. The playground is reserved before and after school for the YMCA program, so students are not allowed on the playground at these times. Families dropping students off in the morning and/or picking up their students at the end of the day will wait outside of the fence by the playground area.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch will be offered to each student and will be eaten in the cafeteria. Breakfast begins at 8:25 AM.

The Responsive Classroom approach at Flynn

Along with Flynn being a “school of peace” we are also a school that supports the “Responsive Classroom” methodology to universal teaching and behavioral expectations in school. The *Responsive Classroom* (RC) emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. Developed by classroom teachers, the approach consists of strategies for helping children build positive academic and social-emotional competencies and relationships. For further information on how Flynn uses “RC” please visit: www.responsiveclassroom.org

CharacterStrong – PurposeFull People: Social Emotional Learning

The District’s Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum is PurposeFull People, developed by CharacterStrong. This is a coordinated SEL curriculum, PreK-12. There are regular SEL lessons throughout the school year. To learn more, go to <https://characterstrong.com/curricula/elementary>.

Faces at Flynn

The start of the 2023-24 school year brings with it new faces to Flynn.

- Rachel Klink: 2nd grade teacher
- Nora Tepsa: 3rd grade teacher
- Caitlin Solie: 4th grade teacher
- Kayla Drazkowski: 4th grade teacher
- Emily Sies-Mandel: School Counselor
- Nicole Rizzo: Behavioral Interventionist
- Emily Urbanski: Special Education Teacher
- Maddi Krivinchuk: Special Education Teacher
- Jane Hestekin: General School Assistant
- TBD: Bilingual Education Assistant
- Maria Giraud: Special Education Assistant
- Donna Brekke: Special Education Assistant
- TBD: Special Education Assistant
- Peter Rejto: 2nd Shift Custodian

These individuals are staying with Flynn and have new or expanded roles.

- Samantha Anderson: Special Education Teacher
- Anne Greylak: Medical School Assistant

YMCA School Aged Child Care (SACC)

The YMCA SACC program runs at Flynn before school starting at 6:00 am. The after-school program runs until 6:00 pm. Families register with the YMCA for the program.

Weekly you will receive Flynn’s family newsletter, The Fly Sheet, from our Partnership Coordinator, Jessica Hoff. We hope you will find these communications helpful in our collective efforts to support your family.

Sincerely,



Jim Schmitt
Principal