Putnam Heights Elementary School

Hello Putnam Panther Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to the world of Kindergarten and Putnam Heights Elementary School! We are excited to have you and your family be a part of our school community. As September nears, the transition into kindergarten for five-year-old children can be filled with anticipation, excitement, and anxiety about the new experience of going to school. Recognizing the unique needs of the young learner as they enter their elementary school experience, the Eau Claire Area School District implements a **New Beginning** for kindergarteners.

- **Tuesday, August 31, 2021 – Kindergarten Orientation – Session 1 from 2:45pm – 4:15pm OR Session 2 from 4:30pm – 6:00pm –** (Instead of having an open house format, we are asking each family to pick one of the above sessions.) To start the session, the principal, the school counselor, the partnership coordinator, and our school nurse will share information about Putnam Heights that will be helpful to you as your child enters school, so it will be important that you attend one of these meetings and that you are there on time. Afterwards the kindergarten teachers will meet with you and your child. You will have time to explore the kindergarten classroom, put supplies away, and visit other parts of our building.

In addition to this Orientation Day, we have a gradual transition to kindergarten over the first few days of school. Please start thinking now about the childcare arrangements you will need to make for the day your child is not in school- either Thursday, September 2nd or Friday, September 3rd. The purpose of this **New Beginning** is to provide a smooth transition into elementary school so that students can develop a positive relationship with their classroom teacher, learn classroom expectations, and practice daily routines in a small group setting.

- **Thursday, September 2nd** - Students with a last name that starts with letters A through L **will** attend school on Thursday, September 2nd and **will not** attend on Friday, September 3rd. They will return to school on Tuesday, September 7th.

- **Friday, September 3rd** – Students with a last name that starts with letters M through Z **will not** attend school on Thursday, September 2nd and **will** attend on Friday, September 3rd. They will return to school on Tuesday, September 7th.

- **Tuesday, September 7th** – All kindergarteners attend school.

More information regarding which class your child is assigned to and the first week of school will be shared with you in August.

- **For students in grades 1 through 5 - Wednesday September 1st - Welcome Back Day** - If you have an older child, this is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and learn about the upcoming school year. More information about this Welcome Back Day will be sent out in early August.

As parents, you are an integral partner of our team. We hope that you will feel comfortable and welcome at Putnam Heights Elementary. If you have any questions about Putnam Heights and/or your child's education, please call me at 715-852-4210 or e-mail me at dlesneski@ecasd.us.

Enjoy your summer!

Diana Lesneski
Principal