



Elmer Thienes – Mary Hall Elementary School

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Principal Assistant Principal

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Happy 2nd day of school! Our children were all welcomed back to sidewalks full of beautiful, inspirational chalk art created Tuesday afternoon. From beautiful illustrations to inspirational sayings, our decorated sidewalks added to the happiness of our first day. Thank you to the PTO for organizing this event!

Yesterday, your child(ren) brought home a blue folder containing a lot of information from the school. As soon as the forms are returned, we update the information in our databases. If at any time in the year any of your information changes (i.e. cell number, email address) please remember to contact the school so your information and our database stays the most current. This afternoon after 5:00 pm, we will be sending out a test text message from our Blackboard Connect system. Please let us know if you didn't receive a text message from us tonight. Text messaging will be used very sporadically – snow day announcements, delayed openings, early closings, etc.

Today we had our first fire drill. Teachers and children were notified prior to the drill that it was happening. Tomorrow, we will be having an unannounced fire drill. We will have a number of emergency drills this year, where we will practice the safety procedures we have in place. Along with our safety drills, we share with our children and staff other safety procedures we have in place, such as not opening an outside door for anyone. We would like to remind families that, when visiting the school, buzz into the Main Office and please DO NOT hold the door open for anyone else. Please have us buzz every person into the building, allowing us to know who is in the building at all times. Please come to the Main Office to sign-in, even if you will be heading over to our Central Office on the other side of the hallway.

Reminder about pick-up: Pick-up is in the cafeteria at the end of the day. If you are picking up your child(ren), please send in a note to the office that shares your child's first and last name. Creating accurate pick-up lists is critical to dismissal running smoothly and our buses being able to leave the bus loop in a timely manner. We don't release our buses until every child is accounted for. When picking up in the cafeteria, please do not park on the ramp between the grass islands, as this area needs to stay open at all times for rescue vehicles.

Buses: Thank you to everyone for their understanding that during the first few days of school, the bus routes may have changed and often take a little longer to complete than they will in a week or two. The drivers are working hard to not only master the new routes, but also get to know all of their kids. The office staff also works incredibly hard answering all of the questions families have about the bus routes. Please realize that for some questions, we need to call DATTCO, our bus company, in order to get an answer. As a result, we may not immediately have the answer. We are all working to ensure that our children's bus experience is a positive one.

We are very proud to share our new website with you! The creation of the new website (www.marlborough.k12.ct.us) has been a long process. Our new site went live last Thursday, and we are currently in process of ironing out the small issues that arise. We will be continually refining the content, as we hope that the site provides you useful information about our school. In the coming weeks, we will be highlighting different features of the website in our Thursday letters.

Our 6th graders will be heading to Winding Trails next Thursday and Friday. During their two days at Winding Trails, they will be presented with a number of scenarios where teamwork is required to succeed at given tasks. Day two will feature many high-ropes adventures, where teambuilding is a critical component of success.

We hope that everyone has a terrific end of the week and a great holiday weekend.

Dan & Kim

Upcoming Events:

- 8/31 - Unannounced Fire Drill
- 9/3 - No School – Labor Day
- 9/5 - Instrumental Music Night – 6:30 pm
- 9/6 - Winding Trails – Grade 6
- 9/7 - Winding Trails – Grade 6

New Fliers:

Community:

[RHAM HS Cheerleading Youth Clinic](#)