



John Wright, Ed.S.
Principal

West Side Elementary

1310 Burgie Street
Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643
Ph: 423-547-8030 Fax: 423-547-8031

Willing – Striving – Excelling!

Dr. Tammy Markland
Assistant to the Principal

Karen Barnett
Bookkeeper

Leanne Combs
Secretary

Laura Reasor
Counselor

August 25, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This year our Parent Orientation meeting will be online in the form of a PowerPoint and this letter. As part of this meeting we are required to inform you of Title I requirements. Title I is the funding we receive from the Federal Government.

To start, I will introduce new Faculty and Staff.

- **Rachel Ayers** comes to us from East Side Elementary where she served as a Reading Interventionist. She will be our new first grade teacher to replace Tori Reeves who moved to South Carolina. She is a phenomenal teacher and we are fortunate to have her.
- Our next Rachel, we are equally fortunate to have. **Rachel Howell** is also from East Side where she was the Curriculum Coach. She will be our new third grade ELA teacher, replacing **Courtney Mathena** who moved to be our fourth grade ELA teacher.
- I am happy to announce that there is another male in the building. **Mat Tynes** will be teaching fifth grade ELA. Mr. Tynes has taught in California and Kingsport City Schools and comes highly recommended. Last year he did interim teaching jobs at West Side and East Side and did a wonderful job!
- **Dr. Tammy Markland** will now be serving as Assistant to the Principal. This is a new position that was added at West Side this year. We are still in the process of hiring several other non-teaching positions.

Just some of the stats from West Side this year. We currently have:

350 Students
18 Regular Classroom Teachers
4 Special Education Teachers
5 Related Arts Teachers
2 Academic Coaches
16 Teaching Assistants
3 Custodians
2 Cafeteria Workers
2 Office Staff
1 SRO
1 School Nurse



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2 Principals

It takes a village to raise a child!

Some areas in which you can help us!

- Returning students - update all Skyward information.
- New students submit all required documents and online forms.
- Student Fee - \$20 (Checks made payable to WSE)
- Free and reduced lunch forms are online.
- Drop Off of Students – To protect instruction time and for safety, you cannot escort students to class.
- Dismissal Car Line Issues – We dismiss car line first, then walkers. Please follow the dismissal plan.

- Title 1 School
 - Please read the title compact in Student Planner.
 - Title Money was spent, reading material, staff development, supplemental educational materials, parental engagement activities, Smartboards, and other educational tools.
 - 1% of money goes toward family involvement, **Libby Post** will be our Parent Involvement Coordinator. We will continue to have Family Engagement Nights if pandemic requirements permitting.
 - **Libby Post's** email is libby.post@ecschoools.net
 - Please review the existing School Parental Involvement Policy that is written in understandable wording. It is on our school website and can be obtained from our office. It will be updated again soon.

- The required components of the School Parent Involvement Policy include:
 - It is developed with parental input and is distributed to parents. — **online or office**
 - Open House and other meetings will normally be at convenient times. — **evenings with other schools in ECS**
 - Request parent input with our School Improvement Plan
 - Provide parents with timely information. — **newsletters from office, teacher notes, planner, FB, Skylert and website**
 - Describe the school curriculum and the forms of assessments. This will be done in many ways including parental involvement nights by grade level.
 - Set up meetings requested by parents to be part of the decision making about their child relating to the education of their child. — **4 ½ week RTI meetings and parent/teacher conferences.**
 - Discuss the school-parent compact in the handbook. — **open house**



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- Address the importance of communication between teachers/parents. — **open house, newsletters, website, Google Classroom, email, etc.**
- Build capacity for involvement in relation to state standards.
- Provide materials/training to help parents work with their children. — **grade level meetings with teachers**
- Build ties between parents and the school. — **assemblies, agendas, website**
- Coordinate parent involvement programs with public preschool/other programs.
- School information sent to parents in understandable language.
- Provide support for parental involvement activities.
- Provide full opportunities for parent's with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. — **Ms. Heather Brodio is ESL Coordinator.**
- Explain the parents' right to be involved in their child's progress.
- Describe the school activities and parent training the school offers. — **volunteer agreement, PTO, parent engagement nights**
- The parent teacher organization, (PTO) is a great way for parents to get involved at the school.

We have a very active PTO that meets monthly. Our PTO raises funds to help with academics and technology. They recently raised approximately \$100,000 to replace and refurbish our two playgrounds.

This year holds many challenges that we can only successfully navigate with parental involvement. Remote online learning is something new and we are learning as we go, just like many of you. Please communicate any issues and we will try to improve the experience of distance learning for all.

West Side Elementary is committed to delivering a quality education, no matter the circumstances.

Sincerely,

John R. Wright