



M. Norcross Stratton Elementary
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August, 2018

Dear Stratton Families:

I hope this letter finds you all enjoying this beautiful Summer, and as excited as I am to begin the year. You will find enclosed materials from the lead teacher(s) for your child for the 2018-19 school year.

Creating new classes is a cooperative and thoughtful process that involves a variety of components and perspectives. It is important to realize that placement decisions are the responsibility of the student's current teachers, service providers and administration. The placement process is dependent upon factors that work to ensure classrooms work cohesively, including class size, social-emotional strengths/needs, peer relationships, and academic strengths/needs. A great deal of time and thought has been put into creating balanced class lists for next year, so we cannot accept requests for changes at this time. All placement decisions are final.

The transition from one year to the next can be an emotional time, but all faculty are very well aware of this, and we design the beginning of the year carefully and deliberately, anticipating a significant amount of time spent on building relationships, physical and emotional safety and clear routines and protocols. One framework that heavily influences our work is Responsive Classroom, and the text 'First Six Weeks of School' – a link to the framework/text is here: <https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/product/first-six-weeks-of-school/>

I wish you a wonderfully relaxing remainder of the Summer! I really do look forward to next year, and our continuing teamwork. Please keep an eye on the PTO website for important events for students and their families, and volunteer and engagement opportunities. Also, please reach out with any questions or concerns at any time.

Finally, a logistical reminder that we have an 11:15 dismissal on Tuesday, September 4th to accommodate for Primary Election Day.

Sincerely,

Michael Hanna

August 1, 2018

Dear families,

I'm thrilled to hear that I'll be working with your family this school year. This will be my tenth year teaching at Stratton. I have taught first, kindergarten, fourth and second grade. Before that, I ran the library at Dallin for two years. I have enjoyed many learning experiences across the elementary grades.

On a more personal note, I live in Arlington with my husband Bobby. I have two daughters that recently graduated college! I feel the experiences I have had with my own children have enhanced my vision for what students can do and be supported to do in order to be successful in their learning. We all enjoy seeing Stratton families around town and in our neighborhood!

During the first weeks of school we will spend many moments getting to know each other and creating a classroom community that fosters a safe and academically stimulating environment that reaches every child. Three years ago, I was trained in and part of a cohort of Stratton teachers that have implemented the Responsive Classroom approach to teaching. One of the main goals is to spend time at the beginning of the year building strong routines and a safe community for all learners. Last year, I focused my professional goal on deepening my practice around supporting students socially and emotionally with an emphasis on cultural awareness. We are fortunate to have a diverse population and it is important to be inclusive and understanding of differences.

I am excited to learn about what your family and individual student learning goals are. To help me get a head start, I have

attached a Family Questionnaire and a Student Questionnaire. This feedback will help facilitate early connections to you and your child. You can email these questionnaires back to me, drop them off at the front office or send them with your child the first day of school. These documents are just a template. Feel free to pass along information, in any format you prefer, that you think would be helpful. Please send back the Family Contact Sheet as well.

Communication is a very important part of our developing relationship. I will create a group e-mail list for communication from me. As soon as possible, please send an e-mail to aabbott@arlington.k12.ma.us from any addresses you would like included. Please state: "Add me to the group list." I usually communicate on-line, so let me know if you would rather paper correspondence. Additional information is also available on my website.

At this point, you should have heard about the school supply program organized by the PTO. Therefore, I am not sending a supply list. Children may bring their own labeled home/school folder; otherwise, I will provide one. The only other important item is headphones. If possible, please send labeled headphones for your child's personal use.

Please email me any time after you receive this letter if you have questions or concerns. I am also happy to meet in person. I'm looking forward to a spectacular year!

Best,

Ann Marie Abbott



Website: <http://teacherabbott.weebly.com/index.html>

HOMework

Dear Families,

During the first week of school students will collage the cover of their Writer's Notebook. I am asking that you help by sending in photos of your child, friends and family as well as any stickers or paper cut outs that connect to your child's interests. These images will help generate writing topics related to memories and interests. The children get very excited to share these while getting to know each other better and this helps develop the classroom community.



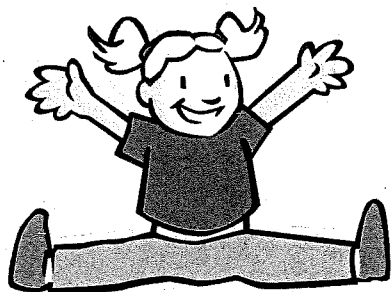
These images will be glued onto the cover so it is important to know they cannot be returned in their original form. Images printed on regular copy paper and no bigger than 3x5ish work best. We will at least fill the cover, but the back and inside cover and back will also provide space for more pictures!

Please send the pictures in a labeled bag on the first day of school.

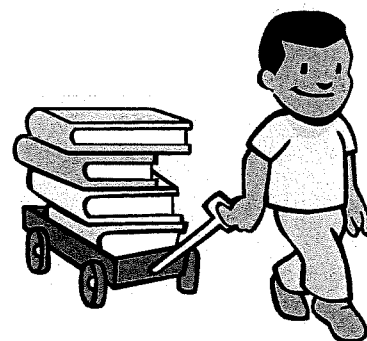
Thank you!

Ann Marie Abbott

Ann Marie Abbott



Family Contact Information



Child: _____

Birthdate: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to be considered for the position of room parent:

Name: _____



Student Questionnaire

Please circle

What are your favorite school subjects?

science math reading writing

What are your favorite school specials?

P.E art music library

What do you want to learn/explore in second grade?

I want to learn/explore _____

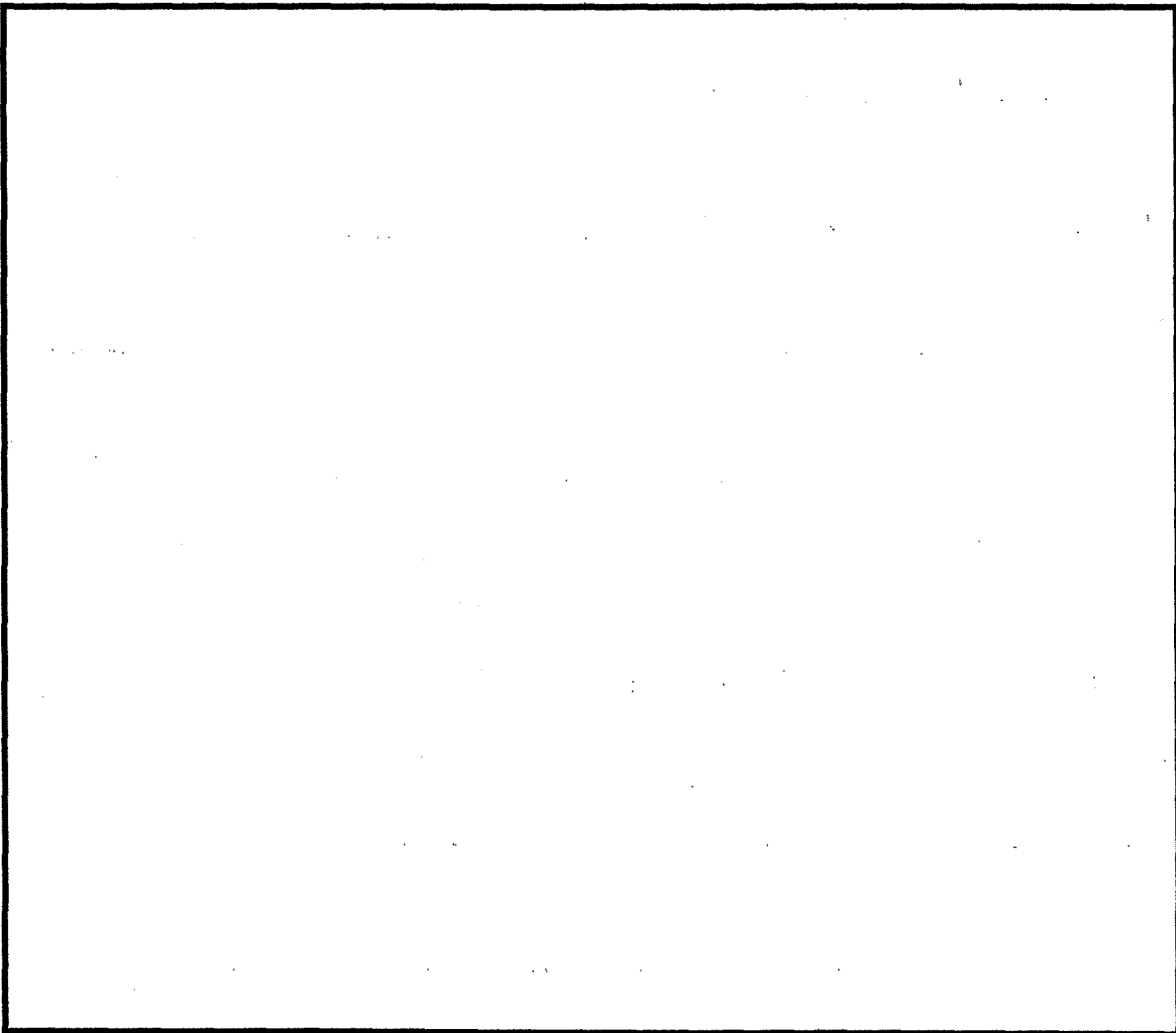
What are some of your favorite things?

Some of my favorite things are _____

What are your special talents?

My special talents are _____

Thank you! I can't wait to read what you wrote. Please draw me a picture of a special summer memory.





Family Questionnaire

1. Please tell me about your academic goals for your child this school year.

2. Please tell me about some of your social/emotional goals for your child this school year.

3. What would be important for me to know early on in the school year? (transitions, shyness...)

4. What is your child passionate about?

5. In what kind of environment does your child work best?

6. To what type of teacher do you feel your child best responds?

7. Please inform me of anything else you think I should know.

8. I will create a group e-mail for communication from me. I try not to send paper notices when possible. If you are unable to use e-mail and need to receive information in another way please contact me at the beginning of the school year. Please send me an e-mail from any addresses you would like included aabbott@arlington.k12.ma.us.

Thank you! I look forward to reading your feedback and working with you this year. Please contact me if there is any reason you want to have a meeting at the beginning of the school year.