

August 15, 2021

Hello Stoddert ES Community,

We are pleased to announce the following **Stoddert ES Staff Updates** for school year 2021-2022:

- **Peyton Burwell** is our new music teacher, joining us on site as our transition out of Fillmore. **Reynaldo Quinn** is also now based at Stoddert ES for art. Ms. Burwell and Mr Quinn's classes will take place in our new trailers once the new trailers are ready.
- **Kevin Lee** is our new librarian replacing Ms. Bowlin, who we wish well in her retirement.
- **Lisa McClusky** has joined our Kinder team replacing Lindsay Devore—we wish Ms. Devore well in her next endeavors! **Ben Krieger** has now joined Ms. McClusky's class as kinder aide.
- **Gwen Norris** has joined our ELL team replacing Ms. Muhawi whose retirement has begun. Ms. Smith, former kinder aide, has also retired.
- **Robbie Dennis** has joined our third-grade team, taking a position created as **Mary Lou Bruno** is our new instructional coach. We wish **Ms. Park** well as she has moved on to serve in another DCPS school.
- **Diane Lesley** joins our team as full-time psychologist, replacing what was a part-time role held by Ms. Shorts. Ms. Lesley will be our Multi-Tiers Student Supports (MTSS) lead.
- **Rodney Savoy** joins our team as a new ELL aide. More announcements are to come, including the long-term substitutes for Ms. Busick, Ms. Brandt and Ms. Guaraldo
- **Iris Attiso** is our new full-time school nurse.

As shared in our last family letter, **we look forward to welcoming families at our upcoming Sneak Peek + Popsicles with the Principal event 8/27/21**. The Sneak Peek is a brief time for you and your child/ren to see their new classroom, drop off supplies and say a socially distanced hello to your new teacher/s for a very brief time. All individuals who enter the building must complete a brief health screening. After your Sneak Peek, please pass through the kindergarten porch area for Popsicles with the Principal, hosted with our PTO. To support social distancing, our Sneak Peek + Popsicles with the Principal event will occur in staggered timeframes. Please note that masking, social distancing and COVID safety protocols apply to all activities:

PreK4 and Kindergarten: 1:00-1:25pm

First and Second: 1:30-1:55pm

Third and Fourth: 2:00-2:25pm

Fifth: 2:30-3:00pm

Teachers will contact families to share student SY 21/22 class assignments throughout the day on Monday, August 23. We appreciate your patience as we thoughtfully build class lists. Class supply lists are available on our website, <https://www.stoddert.org/>.

Reminders of key dates:

- Classroom Sneak Peek with Popsicles with the Principal, 8/27/21
- PTO Hosted Playground Playdates, 8/28 (timing details to come)
- First Day of the School Year 8/30/21

- We are diligently planning additional dates for activities like Back-to-School Night, etc. in collaboration with our amazing PTO, stay tuned!

Health and Safety Updates

As you know by now, Mayor Bowser [announced](#) that [vaccination against COVID-19 will be a requirement](#) for all DC Government employees, including all DC Public Schools staff. As a city agency, DCPS will follow this policy, which goes into effect on September 19. Any individual staff person who has a religious or medical exemption to the vaccine will be required to take a weekly COVID-19 test. Due to medical privacy concerns, DCPS will not share the vaccination status of individual staff.

This fall, we will continue our layered mitigation strategy, which will be centered around the latest health and safety guidance from the CDC and DC Health. I encourage you to visit dcpsreopenstrong.com for more information about our health and safety protocols. You can expect additional information to be shared in the coming days and weeks related to COVID protocols, including requirements for COVID testing for unvaccinated individuals who have traveled outside of the DMV. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

In true Stoddert ES tradition, we will go beyond what is required. Lunch will occur outdoors and in cases of inclement weather, lunch will occur in classrooms. We are striving to avoid use of the cafeteria for mealtimes. Other notable mitigation strategies, in line with best practices for covid safety, include use of five entrances at arrival time to support screening and physical distancing. No visitors are allowed without appointments until further notice. While this limits parents and volunteers in the building, we appreciate your support to ensure our community's safety. We are committed to continuous community dialogue to improve our planning. We ask that you please [review proper mask fitting](#) with your children and ensure that students are properly masked upon arrival. We thank the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) who is dual hatted as our Reopen Community Corps (RCC) who are reviewing our reopening plans while also providing advice and suggestions.

We hope that each of you are rested, excited, and ready for what lies ahead!

In partnership and service,

K Rivas, Principal & AP Villegas