

## Brookfield Elementary

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### Upcoming Events

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Have a great summer!

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#### **Principal Note:**

As we say farewell to another school year, we wish all of you a wonderful and safe summer full of lifetime memories.

At this last Monday's board meeting, our new primary teacher, Arianna Dayharsh, was formally approved. Arianna is a Connecticut native and UVM grad who has spent the last couple of years teaching in the primary grades in North Carolina. The hiring team was impressed by Arianna's knowledge and understanding of primary instruction, as well as her work ethic and serious mindset about the importance of foundational learning for each child. She will work as a partner with Ms. Pratt as they configure the K, 1 and 2 grades to meet best instructional practices. With only 4 kindergartners coming in, there will not be a straight kindergarten, first or second grade. Over the summer and with the new administrator, they will review the incoming students needs and configure an appropriate plan for meeting the kids' learning needs. At a parent meeting in August, the plan will be shared with all. Stay tuned for a letter in early August with the date and agenda for that meeting.

As our school moves forward and we plan for the upcoming year, it is important to note the size of that incoming kindergarten class and how it impacts the traditional way we think of kids being in classrooms of one

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School Begins  
on August 28,  
2017

or two grades. Last year there were 18 kindergartners. Small, rural schools across the state, like Brookfield, continue to struggle with enrollment challenges and fluctuations. Last year, our sister school in Braintree had 4 K students, while next year's class looks to be about 19! These numbers create significant challenges for schools and for staff as these classes move up through the grades, including the need for teachers who can effectively teach across multiple grade levels from year to year, and sometimes in multiple grade levels at one time. With the current state and federal accountability requirements for student achievement, it means that teacher expertise and flexibility to teach every subject area across many grade levels in alignment with national standards is impractical and unrealistic. Given that, you will learn in August that next year, the configuration for grades 3-6 will also be framed differently. Mrs. Ferris will focus her instruction in math/science, while Mr. Hayward will be the literacy/social studies teacher. Mrs. Ferris will start the day with the 3/4 students and work with them until recess/lunch, while Mr. Hayward will have the 5/6 students for the a.m. Students will then switch teachers for the afternoon. Like doctors who specialize their practice in order to more effectively address the complex needs of their patients, Mrs. Ferris and Mr. Hayward will be able to teach their specific subjects with greater depth and understanding. You will learn more about this approach (now being used in many schools across the state, including Braintree and RES) at the August parent meeting.

In other news, we have successfully hired a new district school nurse for next year. Mrs. Megan Spaulding will be working one day at week here at Brookfield (as Mrs. Deflorio did), one day at Braintree and two days at RUHS.

We have no news to report about a new administrative hire at this time.