



News from Ms. Morningstar

Graham Hill students will become lifelong learners and problem solvers. They will work to get along with others and respect differences.

This is the first newsletter for the '07-'08 year.

My plan is to communicate with you every other Wednesday in this format. I hope to keep you updated on any news regarding the school such as curriculum, activities staff etc.

The backside of this newsletter will either be filled with PTA information or other news of interest.

WELCOME:

I would like to welcome our new families to Graham Hill. You have chosen us as a school community and I know that you will not be disappointed. There are many ways for you to become involved. Please con-

sider volunteering as a room parent for your child's classroom. At our first PTA meeting and at Curriculum Night there will be a chance to sign up for V.I.V.O. otherwise known as Very Important Volunteer Opportunities. I'll see you at these two upcoming events.

Advance Learning Nomination forms:

These forms will be arriving in the school office very soon. If you would like to nominate your child for advance learning please pick up one of these forms or print it off the school district website and follow the timeline given. Thank you

Conference times:

Parent teacher conferences will be held November 13-20th. Your first opportunity to sign up for your time slot will be at Curriculum Night on September 20th for grades 1-5. Since Kindergarten has already had their curriculum night the teachers will be contacting parents differently.

Paid Job Opportunity:

GH is looking for someone to be the project coordinator for the Dept. of Neighborhoods Grant that we received last Spring. This would include some evenings, community outreach, and coordinating evening classes in our computer lab. There is a more detailed job description in the school office or talk with me anytime.

Graham Hill Elementary

From the desk of Chris Morningstar

September 12, 2007

Special points of interest:

- 1st Newsletter
- Welcome
- Nomination Forms
- Conference Times
- Job Opportunity
- Autism Inclusion

Upcoming events:

9/20: Curriculum Night

9/25: M's game for attendance All-Stars

9/26: 1st PTA meeting

9/26: Early Release at 1:15

Graham Hill has two Autism Inclusion Programs each serving up to eight students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in grades K-5. Each program has a special education teacher, and two instructional assistants.

Program Description

Students are fully included in general education classes, and spend as much time as possible in the classroom as appropriate for each individual student. An inclusion model generally requires that students are able to spend at least one third of their day independently.

Students receive additional support in the classroom from special education staff. Students are provided with individualized supports, accommodations, and modifications to help them succeed in the general education setting. These supports may include picture cues; visual schedules; behavior checklists; reinforcement systems using a preferred item or activity; social stories (situational scripted stories); peer buddies; desk and/or notebook organizers; AlphaSmart keyboards for writing assignments; scribes for writing; and assignments modified by length, content, and/or format.

The autism inclusion special education classroom is room 205. This classroom may be used to provide specially designed instruction in the areas of academics, social skills, and sensory integration. This classroom also serves as a place for 'fun time' and 'cool down time'. Students can earn fun time for a job well done, or retreat for cool down time when frustrated.

Autism Inclusion Special Education Staff

Inclusion teachers are Karie Crews-St. Yves and Shelly Hurley. Inclusion teachers are responsible for designing individual educational, behavioral, and social skills programs for students.

Instructional assistants are Renee Patterson, Sharron Peterson, Hanna Hinga, and Don Willis. Instructional assistants are a vital part of our program. They support both students and teachers.

Graham Hill staff is dedicated to working together to help students reach their potential in the least restrictive environment.

For further information contact:

Karie Crews-St. Yves @ 252-7157, or Shelly Hurley @ 252-7162