

**Mt. Pleasant Elementary School
Smithtown, NY 11787**

August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the summer draws to an end I hope this letter finds you and your family revitalized and eager to begin the 2022-2023 school year. *Please keep this letter for future reference.*

Placement Information for the 2022 – 2023 school year will be available on Monday, August 29, after 12:00 pm, via the PowerSchool Parent Portal, and can be located by visiting: <https://portal.smithtown.k12.ny.us/public/>. ***All information in the Parent Portal, including emergency contacts, must be updated/corrected before you are able to see your child's teacher placement. This information is also needed in the event that we need to reach you in an emergency.***

On Thursday, September 1, 2022, we cordially invite you to join us for a “Meet and Greet”. Mt. Pleasant will be open from **11:00-11:45 a.m.** to allow students and parents the opportunity to visit their new teachers. **Mrs. Lucca will not be available until 1:30. Mr. Jackowski is unavailable for this time and will contact you regarding his meeting.** On the last page of this letter you will find a list of teachers with their room numbers.

Please take the time to read through this packet carefully for important dates and guidelines. The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, **September 6**. The school day will officially begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:35 p.m. *The school doors will open at 9:20 a.m.* each day for student arrival. If you plan to drive your child to school, please be aware that the doors will remain locked until 9:20.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our Main Office at 631-382-4355. Questions regarding transportation can best be answered by calling our Transportation Department at 631-382-4100. For questions pertaining to your child's health or attendance, please contact our Health Office at 631-382-4360.

The 2022-2023 school year promises to be full of exciting and valuable educational experiences aimed at promoting the cognitive, social, and emotional growth of your child. We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Mt. Pleasant Elementary School. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Joseph Ierano

Joseph Ierano
Principal

Visitors

On all visits to the school, visitors must produce a driver's license, or another valid form of photo identification such as a passport or government/military ID.

Important Dates:

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| Thursday, 9/1 | Meet and Greet - 11:00-11:45 a.m.(except for Jackowski and Lucca) |
| Tuesday, 9/6 | First Day of school for Students (9:30 – 3:35, doors open at 9:20) |
| Tuesday, 9/13 | PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. (all parents encouraged to attend) |
| Tuesday, 9/20 | Grades 3-5 Meet the Teacher Night (details to follow) |
| Thursday, 9/22 | Grades K-2 Meet the Teacher Night (details to follow) |
| Thurs. 9/22 & Fri. 9/23 | School Pictures (schedule to follow) |
| Mon. 9/26; Tues. 9/27 | No School – Rosh Hashanah |
| Wednesday, 10/5 | No School – Yom Kippur |
| Monday, 10/10 | No School – Columbus Day |

Attendance

All children are expected to attend school regularly as long as they are in good health. If a child is absent from school it is required by law that the school be notified in writing as to the reason for the child's absence. If your child will be absent from school, please be sure to call our

Health Office at 631-382-4360 as early as possible.

Arrival/Drop Off

Please note that the school cannot provide supervision for students who arrive at school before 9:20 a.m., unless the student is coming for a previously scheduled before school club/activity.

Due to safety concerns, cars are not permitted to enter the main parking lot during arrival or dismissal. Parents who choose to drive their children to school must enter through the north parking lot and follow the yellow traffic arrows to the student drop off area.

Attire

In order to participate in Physical Education class students must wear athletic sneakers and sweatpants or shorts. Students wearing a dress, sandals, toeless or backless shoes, jewelry, a hat, or any other clothing/accessory that compromises a child's safety will not be allowed to participate. ***The same dress requirement will be maintained for students who wish to play on the playground equipment and/or take part in athletic games during recess.***

Many times in elementary classrooms students are asked to sit in carpeted areas of the classroom. With this in mind, please arrange for your child to attend school in comfortable clothing, and dress so that undergarments will not be revealed.

Bus Safety/Information

Bus information will be sent in a separate mailing from the **Transportation Department (631-382-4100)**. If your child will be riding a bus, please speak to him/her about appropriate bus behavior and safety considerations. When riding a school bus, children are expected to remain seated at all times, wear a seatbelt, and follow the driver's instructions. Please remind your child that school rules apply to all students when they are present on the school grounds and on a school bus. Any form of verbal or physical abuse is strictly prohibited. Any student who violates these guidelines does so at the risk of losing his/her privilege to ride a bus.

As students and bus drivers adapt to the new school year, buses may arrive at their daily stops a few minutes earlier or later than expected during the first few weeks of school. With this in mind, please plan to have your child at his/her bus stop 10 minutes early in the morning and please do not be alarmed if your child does not arrive at his/her afternoon stop at the exact scheduled time.

If your child does not get off the bus at their afternoon stop, please try to stay calm, contact the school to make us aware that he/she did not get off the bus and remain at the stop. We will contact you with further instructions.

Helpful Numbers: Towne Bus: 631-862-2019; Suffolk Transportation: 631-737-0695 (Vans)

Custody

If there are any issues of custody that pertain to your child please ensure that you provide the school with all pertinent legal documentation necessary to enable us to abide by the court's ruling.

Dismissal

Dismissal will begin at 3:35 each day. Parents who will be picking their child up from school must enter the school grounds through the north parking lot, park their car, and report to the walker doors. Parents will be required to sign their child out. Photo I.D. may be requested of you.

If you plan to take your child out of school early, please be sure to do so before 3:10 p.m. If you cannot pick your child up before 3:10 p.m., you will need to write a note to designate your child as a walker for the day and will therefore be required to pick your child up at the walker door.

If someone other than a child's parent or guardian is going to pick a child up from school, the person's name must be listed as an emergency contact in the Parent Portal. The person you designate to take your child out of school will be required to show photo identification before they will be permitted to take your child.

If you plan for your child to leave school in a way that is different from his/her normal routine, please be sure to notify the school ahead of time in writing via a note to the classroom teacher. In your note please be sure to include your child's ***first and last name, his/her teacher's name, the date, the manner in which your child will be dismissed, a contact number where you can be reached, and your signature***. We will not dismiss a child in any manner aside from their normal dismissal routine unless we receive written notification ahead of time.

Lateness

Students who enter school after 9:30 a.m. will be marked tardy. If a child is late to school, he/she must be escorted by a parent into the building where the parent will be asked to sign the child in. Please make every effort for your child to be in school on time each day to avoid classroom disruptions.

Lunch

Lunch is available through our cafeteria for all students. Toward the end of each month you will receive a lunch menu for the upcoming month. Due to the many adjustments that our Kindergarten students will experience in the beginning of the year, ***it is recommended that all Kindergarten students be sent to school with a bagged lunch for the first few weeks.*** This will help our Kindergarten students to enjoy a more relaxed lunch experience, as carrying a lunch tray can be a bit challenging at first.

A prepaid lunch program is available for your convenience. Current lunch price is **\$2.75**; milk only is \$.60. You can pay for your child's lunch ahead of time on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis. To pay ahead of time, you can either send your child to school with a check made out to "Child Nutrition" or you can use the online *My School Bucks* payment system which is available at www.myschoolbucks.com/.

Personal Belongings

The school will not be held liable for the personal belongings of any student. All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, laptops, MP3 players, tablet computers, etc...) and toys are **prohibited**. If a student is found to be in possession of an unauthorized electronic device or toy, the school reserves the right to confiscate such items.

Please be sure to ***label all personal items*** such as backpacks, supply boxes, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc., with your child's first and last name so that if an item is misplaced, it can be returned to its rightful owner.