

Newport News Public Schools

September 2016

Dear Yates Elementary School Parents & Families,

It is with much anticipation that we begin what I believe will be the best school year ever at Yates! We are heading into the new school year Fully State Accredited and looking forward to making even bigger strides over the next several months. I encourage you to join us in embracing the challenge of committing to excellence in everything we do for Yates students.

Yates achieved the goal of meeting all state accreditation and federal annual measurable objectives (AMOs) last year and increased the percentage of K-5 students reading not just on grade level, but above grade level as well. We will be aiming to continue to build upon these successes in 2016-2017. The entire Yates staff is committed to doing whatever is necessary to help each student who comes through our doors this year to succeed and excel.

There are several new staff members at Yates this year. I am proud to introduce the following new "Mates": Brenda McElroy (Reading Specialist), Janee Ealey (Specialized Instruction), Krystin McAdams (Counselor), Hunter McEnroe (School Psychologist), and Anthony Whitaker (Security). In addition, the following teachers have changed grade levels this year: Barbara Lynch (new to 3rd Grade), Jamie Alexander (new to 3rd Grade), and Pam Krzeski (new to Kindergarten). We are excited to have them join the Yates family! A complete listing of the staff can be found on the school website: <http://yates.nm.k12.va.us/>.

We rely heavily upon your support and participation to maintain high academic achievement. Keeping this in mind, all of our parents and families are encouraged to commit to the following:

- **Volunteer in your child's classroom and/or at school.**
- **Become a member of the PTA. (Dues are \$5.00).**
- **Maintain regular contact with your child's teacher.**
- **Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school/class events.**
- **Read with your child daily.**
- **Check his or her agenda book each evening, as well as the Thursday folder weekly.**
- **Designate a quiet place for your child to study at home.**

The partnership between school and home is critical in our efforts to maximize student potential. Experience shows that students are most successful when parents and teachers work together. If you have questions at any time this year, please feel free to contact the school at 881-5450. I look forward to working with you in partnership throughout the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk
Principal