

August 15, 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I am so happy to be returning for my third year at Daniel Bagley School. Each year is an opportunity for growth and joy for all of us. I am eager to welcome students who are new to Bagley and re-unite with the fabulous students I already know on Sept. 7th!

I am looking forward to hearing about what everyone did over the summer. I spent quality time with my husband and our son who is entering 5th grade. Our summer adventures gave me a renewed appreciation for our beautiful state of Washington. We spent time at Lake Chelan, visited majestic Mount Rainier, and backpacked in the Hoh Rainforest. We are so lucky to live in this amazing place! I also took long walks with friends, did lots of reading, and enjoyed watching the Olympics. Those athletes inspire us all to be the best we can be. I hope my whole class will carry that spirit into the classroom this fall as we strive together toward our learning potentials.

I am particularly excited to begin the year by building a productive learning community, based on positive routines. I will ask students to reflect on their prior experiences at school and think about what has worked and not worked for them. I will be bringing in some new ideas and also look forward to hearing students' ideas. We will reach some agreements, learn new structures for working together, and dive into the year ready to meet new challenges.

Throughout the year, I will work to present each student with just the right level of challenge. It is natural for each student to progress at his/her own pace, and I will be looking for strong effort from everyone. We will also have a focus this year on self-monitoring and reflection. We will consistently ask ourselves, "What did I accomplish today? What could I do differently tomorrow to maximize my learning and feel great about my work?" The habit of reflection is something students can take forward with them and will help them feel ownership over their progress.

I ask that each student please come to school each day with a book to read during silent reading time. We will work on selecting books at school, and I am happy to send home booklists and links to help with this important task. Nothing is more valuable than getting immersed in a great book!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Email is the best way. I am looking forward to getting underway with this promising new school year!

Sincerely,

Laura Adriance

laadriance@seattleschools.org

3rd / 4th Grade Contemporary