



Dear Galaxy families,

We hope that everyone is enjoying the last few weeks of summer break!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We have been teaching together since 2002, and we love teaching fifth and sixth-grade students. Tracey enjoys sharing her love of math and animals, especially her commitment to working with greyhounds. In math, she enjoys using problem solving strategies to see how the same problem can be approached in a number of different ways. Neil is an avid reader and writer and enjoys working with Galaxy students to find and tell their own stories. Brad enjoys sharing his love of stories and humor and is eager to help build this year's Galaxy community.

Summer Project

Each year, the Galaxy school year begins with a Galaxy orientation for the first three days of school. The theme for the orientation this year is "Appreciating Differences". In preparation for this theme, we are asking each Galaxy student to read one of the following books this summer: Afternoon of the Elves by Janet Taylor Lisle or Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare. If you have already read one of these books, please choose the other one. We have ordered copies of each and you can pick them up in the office on Guilford Campus. Please write your child's name on the list underneath the title of the book you have chosen. There will be discussion about the books during the beginning of the year orientation. These books will be turned in to the Galaxy teachers after the orientation.

The project that you need to work on in conjunction with the overall theme of "Appreciating Differences" is to write, build, make, and/or create a presentation (either a physical display or digital) that shows how you handled a time when you felt different from others in some way. This could be a time when you were in a new situation, when you were in a new place, or when there was something about you that made you feel different. Be imaginative, be creative, and show your best work on this project. (We purposely leave this project open-ended. Feel free to be led in any direction and have fun with it.) This should be more than a quick drawing or a short written piece. These will be shared with your classmates during the orientation. Hopefully, this will set a positive tone for how each of you will carry through with your work for the year.

In *General Music* class, students will learn to play the ukulele. A ukulele can be purchased from many vendors, including Moore Music for a 10% discounted price in store (call 336-274-4636 and ask for Dave; if you order online, it will not give you the discount for NGFS).

Important Upcoming Dates

- Monday, August 22 - 6-7 p.m. - Classroom Welcome Night
- Wednesday, August 24 - First day of School; New Parent Orientation at 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 30 - 6 p.m. - Galaxy Parent Meeting
- Friday, September 2 - Hopes and Dreams Conferences; no school for students, Extended Care is offered

Required School Supplies

- 4 - 1 inch binders (different colors); 5 if your child plays violin
- 1 - ½ inch binder
- Notebook dividers (12)
- Pens
- Pencils
- Pencil box
- Small non-electric pencil sharpener
- Highlighters (at least 3 colors)
- Markers or colored pencils (at least 5 colors)
- 9x12 spiral-bound sketchbook for Art class
- For general music class:* a soprano ukulele
- For strings music class:* a violin
- Labeled reusable water bottle (at least 16 oz) of your choice with spill-proof cap, no glass.
- Lunch box

Optional School Supplies

If you are interested in donating a few items for classroom use, these are items that we are always in need of:

- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Clorox wipes
- Plastic spoons
- Pencils

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

- You will be given a name card to display on your car window visor. Please be sure to clearly display this card on the visor in the morning and afternoon; we appreciate your assistance in helping drop-off and pick-up run smoothly and efficiently.
- Drop-off will begin at 7:30 a.m. for Extended Care and 8 a.m. for the regular school day and will continue until 8:25 a.m. Please plan to arrive during this window of time.
- Please drop your child off at the car-loop in front of the fence gate in front of the school. Your child will then enter the classroom by using the sidewalk to access their class door. Staff members will be present to take them to their classrooms.

- If your child arrives late, please bring your child to the office and sign them in. Your child will be escorted by staff to their classroom.
- Dismissal is at 3:10 p.m. Staff will direct parents/guardians through the carpool line, and teachers will bring students to the carpool line. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick-up list in ParentsWeb. Instruct them to have identification with them; staff will check the ID of anyone unknown to them.
- If you must pick your child up before school is over, please come by the office to sign your child out. If this early pick-up is for a scheduled appointment, please coordinate with your student's teacher in advance so they will have their belongings packed and ready to go at the designated time. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up early, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick up list in ParentsWeb.
- Please email your student's contact teacher if they will be absent. If an extended absence from school is necessary, prior permission (at least a week in advance) must be obtained from the Division Head so that arrangements can be made for work. After contacting the Division Head concerning a protracted absence, parents/guardians of students in K-6th grades should contact teachers for assignments.

Snack and Lunch

Your child needs to bring a snack, lunch, and a non-caffeinated drink each day. Appropriate snacks include fruit, yogurt, cheese, bread products, and juice. We do not have refrigerator space for lunches, so pack lunches accordingly. Lunch box-sized ice packs/coolers work well for keeping drinks and yogurt cool. Also, we have no microwaves available for student lunches. Hot lunches are available but must be ordered ahead of time. **Due to food allergies, Galaxy will be nut-free this year.** Students may not bring food items containing peanuts, cashews, almonds, or other nuts. This includes peanut butter, granola bars containing nuts, and other nut items. Sun Butter can be a great alternative.

Contact Groups

Please see the Welcome Letter email, sent on August 5, for the **Galaxy Class List**.

If you have any information or questions that may help to ensure a successful start to the school year for your child, please feel free to email your child's contact teacher, or you can leave a message at school. In addition, you will have an opportunity to share the Hopes and Dreams that you have for your child's school year with their contact teacher at our conferences held on September 2. Look for a Sign-Up Genius to be emailed prior to the start of school from your child's contact teacher. Your child's contact teacher will be meeting and communicating with you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Brad, Neil, and Tracey
Galaxy Teachers