



**September 2015  
Berney Elementary  
Principal Update**

Hello Berney Families,

We have officially started the school year and we're thrilled you are part of the Berney family.

**Safety:** For those of you who participated in Thought Exchange last spring, we are working through your input and one of the areas that definitely stands out is safe walking and biking areas. The safety of our students coming to and from school, particularly on School Ave, and the intersection of School and Pleasant, requires our full attention. We talked with our city traffic department last year and they too are aware of the safety issues without a sidewalk. Until we see upgrades, please drive slowly, stay off your cell phones, and refrain from U-Turns during the school day. Berney staff will continue to serve as crossing guards because we believe it is safer than placing 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in charge of traffic.

**Open House:** Please join us for our school-wide Open House on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. We're changing the format this year. I will be introducing staff and sharing a few highlights for the year, including information about our new fundraiser, at 5:30pm in the gym. We'll then begin serving dinner as soon as we're finished in the gym. Classrooms will be open from 6:30-7:30. This is a great opportunity to have your child show you around and to meet the staff. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade team will have a group presentation in the library at 6:45pm.

**Lunch/Recess Changes:** We made a few changes to the lunch/recess schedule this year to accommodate academic blocks, and to be able to increase the supervision ratio on the playground. Our data last year showed recess was the area in which students struggled the most to make good decisions. This year we have increased supervision and reduced the number of grade levels outside at the same time. We believe this is one important step we can take to help maximize instructional time when students return to their classrooms.

I've had the privilege of being in each classroom every day over the last week. It is clear there is a high level of commitment from staff to support your child(ren) in a successful transition to the new school year. Thank you for making sure they are at school on time each day. Not only does an on-time arrival help your child have a successful day, but it also gives the office staff more time to focus on other important tasks when phone calls home don't have to be made. Families play an important role in how well students do in school. Thank you for all you do to support your child and Berney.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions, suggestions or concerns.

Best Wishes for a fabulous 2015-16 school year!

Christy Krutulis, Berney Principal

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