

Lapham Lookout Elementary

Special Edition #1
September 2009

Lapham Elementary School
1045 East Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53703

Dr. Michael Hertting
Principal

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Dear Parents:

I look forward to seeing all of you at the PTO Open House next Tuesday evening, September 29th at 6:15. You will be able to visit your child's classroom, the music room, art room and the library. We will end the evening with an ice cream treat in the cafeteria at 7:00.

This special edition newsletter also brings news that we will be adding another section at our school. We will be adding a K/1 Section. Our numbers at kindergarten and first grade were over capacity. This is good news for our school, though it does involve moving some children to a new classroom. There is additional information on the back side of this newsletter. In addition, I will be available after the Open House to address any parent questions.

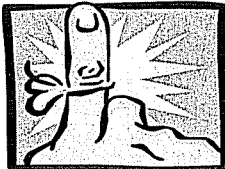
We hope that your child has had a great start to the year. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your child. Schools and parents working together is a great combination.

See you at the Open House!

Mike Hertting

Reminder Open House Tuesday, September 29th
at 6:15

Parent Volunteers Needed to help out at picture
day—please call the office!



Tuesday
Thursday

September 29th
October 1st

6:15 Open House
Picture Day

(OVER)



Questions and Answers

What is the enrollment at Lapham? Our enrollment this year is 223 Students. We have 74 in kindergarten, 79 in first grade and 70 second graders. We have one more classroom than last year. We will now have 4 kindergarten classes, 1 K/1 Multi-Age, 4 first grades and 3 second grades.

Why are they adding a section at this time? Our additional section was based on 3rd Friday enrollment which was taken last Friday. The MMSD Board of Education has made a commitment to keep class sizes low at the elementary level. The goal for schools with a poverty level similar to Lapham is 17—18 students at the kindergarten and first grade level. At second grade the numbers can go to 24.

What is the timeline for this change? We will move as quickly as possible. It is likely to take two weeks to have all of the logistics in place.

Where will the class be located? We are working on the location of this additional classroom.

How will children be selected for the new section? We have just about finished doing assessments and will use that information to select students. Our goal will be to have similar classrooms in terms of range of abilities?

How will we transition the student to the classroom? This will be our 3rd year in a row where we have had to reorganize. We have found that our students make the changes quite well. We will gradually transition the students to the new classroom. In addition, children take their cues and sense how their parents feel about things. If your child is chosen to move to the new section, your excitement and positive approach will make a big difference.

Who will teach the new classroom? We will be interviewing next week for the teacher.

How does one teacher teach two grade levels? The range in a combination class is very similar to that of either a kindergarten or first grade. We have multi-age classrooms across MMSD. At Lapham we have had a grade one/two combination for several years. Teaching, in general, is hard work. The same is true for a multi-age classroom.

How will we find out if our child will be moved to the new section? The school will contact parents prior to the move and the transition.

When will I get to meet the new teacher if my child is chosen? We will have a special open house for this classroom once the class is up and running.

If I would like my child considered for the new section, who should I contact?
Please contact the principal at 204-4140.