

Dear Finch Parents and Community,

Welcome to a new school year! I am so excited to be joining the Finch Mustangs and love meeting all the students and families. This is a beautiful building and an amazing staff. I know your child is going to have a great year of learning because of the dedication and hard work of everyone at Finch. This also includes all of the Finch families, as the number of volunteers and the support parents provide here is just amazing. This is going to be a great school year!

Our newsletter is posted on the school website and comes home every month. It contains many details about the upcoming events for the month, as well as celebrating some of the work being done daily. In addition to the newsletters, the back-to-school packet your child brought home the first day includes many items that will help all of us get the year started off right. Please take the time to review each of them. One of the most useful tools you will find is the Finch Family Calendar & Student Handbook. This resource includes information on topics ranging from attendance to cell phones, and from our dress code to voter registration. Please keep it handy and post it in an easy to reference location. It will surely answer many of the questions you have about the wonderful school your child is attending.

Some new things happening this year: Teachers in K-2 grade are excited to implement a new math curriculum called Bridges. Grades 3-5 will be trained this spring and start implementing the same curriculum next school year. Feel free to check it out and find additional resources at:

<https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/families/bridges2>

Also, third grade joined 4th-6th grades this summer in training to learn more about AVID strategies. They will begin implementing some AVID strategies to promote college and career readiness this year. Read more about AVID on page 3.

Besides these new items, Finch continues to work on fostering positive relationships with students through our PBIS program, with an emphasis on Restorative Practices. Restorative Practices attempts to repair one's relationship with an individual or the community after they caused a problem which ruptures the relationship. This repair helps the person see the affect their action had on others and teaches them how to "mend the fences". I look forward to sharing more on this topic as the year progresses.

Again, I am honored to be a part of the Finch community and look forward to working with the staff and families to make this a tremendous year! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully,

Shane O'Doherty, Principal