

ANNE SULLIVAN SCHOOL

700 N. Schoenbeck Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070
Phone: 847.870.3865

FAX: 847.870.8113

Traci Meziere
Principal

August 2018

Dear Sullivan Families,

I hope your students had a great first week of school! I had the chance to visit classrooms multiple times over the past four days, and the children are excited to be back. I am looking forward to a great year of learning at Sullivan.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some exciting instructional changes we are making at Sullivan this year! Prior to the 2018-19 school year, students at Sullivan switched classes for math and literacy in both fourth and fifth grades. This meant that students received instruction from two or three core teachers over the course of the academic day.

Last year, the Sullivan staff and administration explored ways to continue to meet the academic needs of our students while creating an environment with more consistency. As a result, we are making changes to our instructional delivery in math and literacy enrichment and acceleration for the 2018-2019 school year. These changes are aligned with our Strategic Plan goals for Student Success as well as Teaching, Learning and Innovation. Keeping elementary children with their classroom teacher as much as possible promotes a strong classroom community and fosters the development of the social/emotional skills students need to be successful. Additionally, Sullivan teachers have been participating in professional development opportunities related to quality literacy instruction for the past year, ensuring that all students have access to curriculum and instruction that matches their skills and inspires growth. The grade level specific changes are outlined below.

Literacy

Our fourth and fifth grade students will no longer switch classes for literacy. Students will remain with their homeroom teacher for literacy, and teachers will differentiate instruction through the use of leveled texts, technology tools, and student grouping within the classroom. This literacy model provides students with consistency, fosters relationship building in the classroom community, and allows teachers to get to know their students as learners while offering opportunities to integrate science and social studies concepts into the literacy block. Students identified for literacy enrichment opportunities will be served through our Core Plus block.

Core Plus

During Core Plus, students identified for literacy enrichment will receive 30 minutes of daily enrichment and extension of the core curriculum. All other students in the grade level will have opportunities for intervention, reteaching, practice, and reinforcement of

Please contact us if you would like this communication translated into your native language.

Por favor, póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea que esta comunicación traducido a su idioma nativo.

Prosimy o kontakt, jeżeli chcą Państwo by wiadomość ta została przetłumaczona na Państwa język ojczysty.

core skills during this time. The instruction will be based on a review of data and students' individual needs.

Math

Students identified for math acceleration in fourth grade will no longer switch for math on a daily basis, but instead will meet with an accelerated math teacher for an hour on Fridays for enrichment and extension. Additionally, fourth grade teachers will differentiate instruction within the classroom on a daily basis to meet the needs of all students. Students in fifth grade will continue to switch classes for math and will follow an accelerated curriculum.

We feel this structure is the most developmentally appropriate for our elementary students, while providing the challenge and supports our students need. If your child is placed in an enrichment section of math or literacy, you will receive a letter in your child's backpack today. As always, please feel free to contact me at tmeziere@d23.org with any questions or concerns.

Best,



Traci Meziere
Principal
Anne Sullivan School