



BURLEY SCHOOL

1630 West Barry Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60657 · 773 534 5475 phone · 773 534 5786 fax · <http://burley.cps.edu/>

Principal
Catherine Plocher

Assistant Principal
Michelle Nash

Resident Principal
Kate Nestler

August 1, 2017

Dear Burley Families,

We hope that you have had time to rest, travel, explore, and enjoy time together this summer. Although it seems like just yesterday when summer began, we are quickly gearing-up for the 2017-2018 school year and are so excited to have our students back in the building on September 5th! Although summer has flown by, it has been a hugely productive one.

Burley wouldn't be the incredible school it is without our community. Year after year our community is truly instrumental to our achievements. We want to sincerely thank our dedicated teachers and staff, students, parents, community, Local School Council, Friends of Burley, PTA, room parents, and our countless volunteers for an outstanding 2016-2017 school year. It is a joy to work together each year with all of you to ensure every student experiences wonder and success. Thank you for all that you do, and for being such a very important piece of our community.

Burley is renowned for its unique and effective curriculum, which centers in literature, writing, inquiry, and technology. A key to our success is that – just like our students – we never stop learning, growing, and improving. In the past several months, we have revised curriculum, attended professional learning courses at Columbia's Teacher's College in New York City and elevated instruction school-wide by creating vertically aligned learning sequences. We have also given the STEAM lab a face-lift with a renovated lab space that will grow with the students as they become more and more savvy in their engineering pursuits! Only communities like Burley can make all these things happen in one summer.

Burley is welcoming a new Resident Principal to the Burley Community, Ms. Kate Nestler. Kate has nearly ten years of experience in CPS at the school, network and district levels. She began her career as a PreK-1st classroom teacher. After completing a master's degree in education policy, Kate moved into a network-level role and, most recently, worked in K-2 Assessment with CPS. Kate loves all things early grades, especially seeing young children explore their emerging literacy skills and develop into voracious readers and writers. Kate is thrilled to be joining the Burley team this year and can't wait to get back to being with teachers and students in a school building every day. Outside of school, Kate loves to read and go to spin classes. Kate is a die-hard Chicago Cubs, Bears and Blackhawks fan and she and her husband, Chris, enjoy going to games together as often as possible.

Join us for Early Bird Day!

Please come to Burley Early Bird Day on Thursday, August 31st from 8:30-6:00 (see enclosed flyer). Sign your forms, pay your fees, and drop off supplies on Early Bird Day anytime from 8:30-6:00. If you'd like to meet your child's teacher, you may do so in the classroom from 8:30-9:30 when you drop off supplies. Our PreK and Kindergarten Open House will be from 8:30-9:30. You can access back to school forms and your child's school supply list at <http://burley.cps.edu/>. Please be sure to complete the online [Family & Emergency Contact Form](http://tinyurl.com/BurleyFamily-EmergencyForm) (tinyurl.com/BurleyFamily-EmergencyForm) in its entirety at Early Bird Day or at home before school begins.

This year, Burley will need to spend 99% of our allocated budget on staffing in order to keep all of our essential educational programming in place. Because of this, we rely heavily on the beginning of year school fees and classroom supply list items to ensure we have the materials and resources needed to maintain the high quality educational experiences our students deserve.

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 5th** from 8:15-3:15. Students may be dropped off on the playground between 8:00 and 8:10 a.m. After your children enter the building with their teachers at 8:15, please



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Join us for coffee and refreshments in the cafeteria sponsored by the PTA. Families unable to attend the Early Bird Day may come to the lunchroom on the first day to pay fees and complete forms. Burley families do not have access to the Petco lot at the corner of Ashland and Barry nor can they double park in the Fletcher cul-de-sac or in alleys. Please find legal street parking in the neighborhood. Cars parked illegally are disruptive to the neighborhood and risk being booted and/or towed. Refer to the enclosed Parent Handbook Preview for other important details about morning drop off routines.

Coming Events

We have an exciting year ahead of us, so mark your calendars!

- August 25: Movie Night 7:00pm (movie begins at dusk)
- August 31: Burley Early Bird Day 8:30am – 6:00pm
PreK Meet & Kindergarten Orientation 8:30am – 9:30am, *classrooms*
- **September 5:** **First Day of School 8:15am – 3:15pm**
Parent Welcome Coffee 8:15am, North Lunchroom
- September 6: Burley New Parent Orientation at 6:00pm, *North Lunchroom*
- September 7: Ice Cream Social at 6:00-7:00pm, *Burley playground*
- September 13: Volunteer Orientation at 8:30am, *North Lunchroom*
- September 16: FOB Southport Taco Fest 10am-10pm
- September 21: Curriculum Night at 5:30pm, *classrooms*
- September 27: Mandatory Meeting for 7th grade parents & students, 7:15-8:10am, *gym*
- September 28: Mandatory Meeting for 8th grade parents & students, 7:00-8:10am, *gym*
- September 29: Fall Parent Social at 6:30pm - *Diag (2856 N. Southport)*

Volunteering at Burley

Burley would not be the wonderful place it is without our numerous parent volunteers. From help with a single event to long-term volunteering, there are many ways to contribute. This year, we continue to ask that each family volunteer at least 10 hours in whatever capacity your schedule allows. Keep an eye out for the many events, programs, and school needs that arise throughout the year, and please do plan to attend our Volunteer Orientation on September 13th at 8:30am. A big thank-you to our parents and families for all that you do!

This Week @ Burley

In order to stay updated on the latest news, events, volunteer needs, and other information from Burley, be sure you are signed up for our weekly parent email, This Week @ Burley. To be added to our mailing list, please email infoburley@gmail.com and use the word “Subscribe” as the subject line. See the enclosed Parent Handbook Preview for more ways to stay informed.

Lastly, watch your email just before school begins for our annual staff video, which will feature new and familiar faces of the incredible team that will be here to greet you on September 5th. We can’t wait to see you then!

Warmly,

Catherine Plocher
Principal

Michelle Nash
Assistant Principal

Kate Nestler
Resident Principal