September 3, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you and your child had a relaxing and safe summer vacation! It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you. My name is Sharon Tomolonis and I will be your child’s learning support teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. This is my 18th year in Central Bucks School District and my 21st year teaching. I have been a 4th-5th-6th grade learning support teacher for the past 15 years. Prior to that, I taught fourth grade regular education for two years. Before coming to Mill Creek Elementary, I was a special education teacher for students in grades 1-5 in the Norristown Area School District for three years. I taught for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit’s Extended School Year Program in Pennsbury School District in the summers from 2006-2008. I also have had a variety of experiences with special education students with learning disabilities and physical disabilities, as well as experiences with a variety of different levels and populations of students in public, private, and parochial schools, both in urban and suburban settings, through my student teaching, practicum, work, and community service experiences. I received a *Master of Education with Reading Specialist certification* at Chestnut Hill College. I received a *Bachelor of Arts in Elementary/Special Education* from La Salle University.

I have already heard so many wonderful things about my new students and am excited to work with them. I am also looking forward to working again with many students that I had last year. My goal for my students this year is to provide an environment that respects individual differences and celebrates diversity so that each child can feel comfortable and motivated to accomplish his or her potential academically, emotionally, and socially and find his or her place in the class as a community. Each of us has strengths and developing areas. It is my goal to find out your child’s strengths and to utilize them in working on developing areas. I will strive to empower the students to be critical thinkers, responsible, creative, and life-long learners.

I believe that being informed is an important prerequisite in getting off to a good start. I am looking forward to an exciting year working together as a team with you and your child. I hope that you will be able to attend the Learning Support Back-to-School Night on September 12th at 6:30-7:00 PM at Mill Creek so that I can introduce myself in person and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Please share the information in this letter with your child. I am committed to making this a successful year for your child.

A *Getting to Know Your Child* form is attached. I would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this form and return it by the beginning of the second week of school. This information will be helpful to me as I get to know your child. I would appreciate it if you could send the following supplies for your child to use in the learning support room. Please send the supplies by the beginning of the second week of school in a bag labeled “learning support supplies.”

•2 boxes of tissues (square box)

**•** 1 container of hand sanitizer

•Dry erase markers and a clean sock to use as an eraser or a dry erase eraser (please have a set for your child to keep in homeroom and a set for your child to keep in the learning support class)

Thank you for all that you do to help your child be successful in school. Thanks in advance for all of your support! We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Sharon Tomolonis, Learning Support Teacher

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