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Dear Maple Hill Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! After a summer spent planning, planning, and planning some more, we are so excited at the prospect of welcoming our scholars back into the school building in a few short weeks. Part of opening school each year involves thinking deeply about the needs of our scholars and how we will address them in the coming year. One of our school wide goals this year will be around developing relationships with scholars and families. We know that this is a critical first piece in helping children to learn and grow. We hold a deep belief in the positive power of relationships and we will have a laser focus on this all year long. Together we can do great things for children!

Another critical piece for scholar success in the upcoming year is attendance. Did you know that a child is considered by New York State to be chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month? Absences can add up quickly. We've done the research - students with frequent absences or tardiness are at much greater risk for not meeting grade level academic standards. **Going to school regularly matters!**

After all of the challenges that the pandemic brought to our children, the importance of coming to school regularly and on time can not be overstated. Please encourage your child to be ready for school each day by developing a routine and some healthy habits that will support success. These include:

- having a regular, age appropriate bedtime.
- planning for the morning by picking out clothes the night before.
- having backpacks packed and ready to go by the door.
- putting technology (chromebooks, games, computers, cell phones) away a full hour before bedtime to aid children in falling asleep.

We also strongly encourage a routine of nightly story reading or, for older children, quiet reading time on their own if they prefer that. It not only supports learning and brain growth but provides some time to relax and get ready to sleep.

Please be sure to note the following important dates on your calendar. We hope you can join us!

- **September 12 - Kindergarten Open House from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
- **September 22 - Grades 1-5 Open House from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Our entire school community is looking forward to partnering with you and your children this year to support all scholars in achieving maximum growth, happiness and success!

Warmly,

Susanne Driscoll, Principal