



## Principal's Desk September 1, 2017

Dear Burr Families,

Welcome back!

We had a great first day. The staff so much enjoyed seeing your children's smiling faces. We are looking forward to a fabulous year.

I wanted to update you on a new dismissal procedure at Burr. In previous years, we have dismissed students starting at 3:25. Pick-ups were called to the cafeteria at that time, and then we started calling busses. When individual busses were called, students reported to the gym. Dismissal typically concluded by 3:40.

This year, we are calling all students to the gym at 3:20. They are organized into bus lines, pick-up lines, and *Kids Care*. At that time, we end our day as a whole school community. This includes saying our school pledge, celebrating positive behavior by our students, and engaging in brief (but fun) academic challenges. Between 3:25-3:30, pick-ups will be dismissed to the cafeteria, and we will begin loading our busses. Our goal is to finish the process by 3:40.

We changed our process for the following reasons:

- Safety – With our new process, every student and classroom teacher will be in the gymnasium. This will ensure that every student is accounted for and supervised by staff.
- Students Missing Busses – In the past, we have had a number of students miss busses for a variety of reasons including they may not have heard the bus called, or they did not get to the gym in a timely fashion. This process should eliminate this problem.
- Community – One of our school goals is to build a vibrant and caring community of learners and leaders. By gathering the entire school together at the end of the day, we are hoping to send students home in a positive, thoughtful manner.

I am sure there will be some logistical elements that we will need to work out in the weeks ahead. We would greatly appreciate your patience and support. We believe that this process only adds to the special culture that is Burr School. Have a great holiday weekend.

*Jason*