

Dear Smith STEM Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school! I hope you've had the chance to relax and enjoy your summer. Hopefully you read a few good books, went swimming, and spent lots of time with family and friends. This summer I was very busy training my new dog named Penny Lane. We went to puppy kindergarten classes, took many long walks and went on a few hikes as well. In addition, this summer I also had the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico with my family. We spent the week paddleboarding and surfing, eating delicious Puerto Rican food, soaking up the sun, and relaxing under beautiful palm trees. Needless to say it was a spectacular way to end my summer break.

July and August have been very busy here at Smith STEM School. We have registered many new students, made necessary adjustments to the heating and cooling systems, installed a new sound system in the cafeteria, and spruced up the school inside and out in preparation for the first day.

It is a true privilege to be a part of the Smith STEM community of learners. The responsibility of educating your children is a great one, but together with your support we can meet this challenge with great success! The elementary years are critical times of development for students and I look forward to partnering up with each and every one of you in creating a learning environment that challenges all of our students and helps them become responsible and caring community members.

Mark your calendars for our first community meeting which will be held on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30. Our annual back to school picnic will be held on Thursday, August 31 at 6:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new families and make new connections. Finally, our Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday, September 14th. More detailed information will be shared soon.

As in past years, many of our teachers spent their summer reflecting and refining their instructional practice. Continuous learning is an integral part of who we are. Many of our teachers joined other district colleagues to collaboratively create and revise curriculum units aligned to Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Another group of teachers continued to deepen their understanding of inquiry based learning at the Connecticut Science Center. I extend my deepest gratitude to our teachers for continuously pushing themselves to refine their teaching and learning practices and making Smith STEM a forward thinking and innovative learning community!

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Happy New Year!

Best Regards,

Teresa Giolito

