



# BIG MOVES, ACCELERATED/MUSIC PROGRAMS, CHILD CARE, AND MORE...

K-5 Learning Communities Newsletter

April 2018

This spring is such an exciting time for Quincy Public Schools! We are wrapping up a successful school year and continuing to plan for the K-5 transition to new learning communities. We want to assure our families that while you may see boxes in classrooms or materials being prepared to be moved, high-quality teaching and learning is still happening in ALL K-5 classrooms. Educators are working extremely hard to continue uninterrupted instruction while preparing for transitional moves. We appreciate your support during this exciting transition.

## Master Schedule: Start and Stop Times

At this time, we are releasing the new K-5 master schedule for students and teachers. We believe a master schedule that includes coordination of start and stop times district-wide, intervention and enrichment time for students, and collaboration time for staff members aligns to the Quincy Public School mission: *“Educate students and teachers to achieve personal excellence.”*

The school day will begin with the start time for K-5 students in all new learning communities at 8:45 a.m. The school day will end with the stop time at 3:15 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the stop time for all K-5 students will be 2:45 p.m. to provide staff members professional development and time to collaborate in professional learning communities.

We are committed to providing a world-class education for all students as we partner with families and the community. Please contact your 2018-2019 K-5 principal with any questions or concerns about the transition to your child’s new school.

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## Accelerated Learning Opportunities

Each K-5 building will have one 4<sup>th</sup> grade self-contained accelerated class and one 5<sup>th</sup> grade self-contained accelerated class. The classes will utilize the current approach to accelerated learning by differentiating instruction. In addition, these classes will teach the AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) curriculum as a tool to support students with accelerated learning. AVID Elementary takes a systemic approach through the use of WICOR (Writing to Learn, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading to Learn) and an explicit focus on high expectations, rigor, and developing a college readiness culture.

Learn about AVID by watching the video at this link: <http://www.avid.org/elementary.ashx>

Students identified as eligible for the accelerated class in grade 4 and 5 will be notified via letter during the summer.

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## Music Learning Opportunities

We want to give our K-5 parents and guardians advance notice of the music learning opportunities for next school year. All K-5 students will participate in general music. Students in grades 4 and 5 will continue to have the opportunity to also participate in instrumental music.

The All-District instrumental band and orchestra will meet weekly for second-year instrumental music students on **Wednesdays\*** after school. We are making plans for these second-year instrumental music students to be transported by bus from their K-5 building to a central location for this weekly after-school learning opportunity; parents/guardians must provide transportation home for students. Choir will also be offered as an after school music learning opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students. Each K-5 building will have a choir that meets one time per week after school. Parents/guardians must provide the transportation home for students.

\*Details for **Wednesday** after-school music learning opportunities, such as beginning dates, start and stop times, and locations, will be available soon.

## **Contacting Your Principal**

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact your principal via e-mail. If you are still unsure about which K-5 is your home school, a refresher on finding your home on the interactive map can be found in our previous newsletters (located on the QPS website [www.qps.org](http://www.qps.org)).

<b>Baldwin Elementary School:</b>	<b>Jim Sohn — <a href="mailto:sohnja@qps.org">sohnja@qps.org</a></b>
<b>Harrison Site Learning Community:</b>	<b>Chrissy Cox — <a href="mailto:coxch@qps.org">coxch@qps.org</a></b>
<b>Iles Elementary School:</b>	<b>Cindy Crow — <a href="mailto:crowcy@qps.org">crowcy@qps.org</a></b>
<b>Lincoln-Douglas Elementary:</b>	<b>Brian Trowbridge — <a href="mailto:trowbrbr@qps.org">trowbrbr@qps.org</a></b>
<b>Rooney Elementary School:</b>	<b>Melanie Schrand — <a href="mailto:schranme@qps.org">schranme@qps.org</a></b>

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## **Registration REMINDER!**

Online Spring Registration opened April 1<sup>st</sup> and will remain open through May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Skyward portal is open for parents/guardians of CURRENT students to register their child(ren) for the 2018-2019 school year. Current families are asked to register online as soon as possible. Please note that you will not be able to pay your book fees until 30 days prior to the start of the school year. You will receive notification via Skylert when fees have been assessed and billed to your student's account.

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## **Before & After School Child Care Program**

Our Before & After School Child Care Program has expanded and is now available for any QPS children enrolled in one of our elementary (K-5) schools for the 2018-19 school year.

Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis and space is limited. **Child care will be provided before school and after school pending adequate enrollment.** In order to enroll in the Before & After School Child Care Program, you MUST return the Enrollment Forms and your \$25.00 enrollment fee to Stephanie Dickens at the Board of Education Office. Families will receive a confirmation letter once the minimum number of children have enrolled.

Enrollment forms and a full description of the Before & After School Child Care Program are available on the website: [www.qps.org](http://www.qps.org); under “Departments”, select “Human Resources”; then click “Before and After School Child Care” (on the left-hand side). Please call Stephanie Dickens at 217-223-8700 Ext. 2287 with any questions.

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## **Did you miss one of our previous newsletters?**

All editions of the QPS K-5 Learning Community Newsletters are available on our website home page by clicking “New K5 Boundaries” (found below the photo slider), then clicking ‘QPS K-5 Learning Communities Newsletters’ on the left navigation menu.