



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON

Deane-Porter School • 50 Black Point Rd • Rumson • N.J. 07760 • (732) 842-0330 • Fax (732) 212-0843

Office of the Principal
Ms. Shari Feeney

August 29, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year Deane-Porter will be joining the NJ Department of Education and Rutgers University in the implementation of best practices for the education of students in grades K-3. A sample of our teachers participated in the Implementation Guidelines Research pilot workshops last year and we were invited to continue with this work for the 2016-2017 school year. The goal is to ensure the most sound and developmentally appropriate teaching and learning practices are in place for Rumson's students. The aim is to build a strong foundation in inquiry, academic curiosity, and social-emotional readiness so each student may thrive with a love of learning moving forward and may grow their potential as life-long learners.

Two classrooms per grade level will participate in the study. These classrooms will turn key information to the other grade level teachers. We are examining high-quality practices and school structures that support student learning. This will be inclusive of project-based learning, themed-based units, integration of character education, and developmentally appropriate interdisciplinary approaches to learning while staying focused on the skills important to reading, writing, mathematics, problem-solving, and critical thinking. This begins with trained observers unobtrusively observing our classrooms using published, reliable, and valid measures of classroom quality. The observers reports will produce data that allows teachers to inform their own classroom practices to ensure they are both developmentally appropriate and academically rigorous. The observers will simply be collecting data on various language arts, mathematics, and social-emotional skills as the students engage in learning activities.

The results will be shared in aggregate. No individual student or teacher data will be shared at any time and all data will be secured under International Review Board protocols for research. Permission sheets will be sent home to allow your child to participate in this exciting study.

The research will identify key areas of success and key areas in need of support and improvement for our school. This information will be useful in planning both in-district professional development for our teachers and in informing state-wide support for learning in kindergarten through third grade.

We are excited for the 2016-2017 school year and look forward to continuing to share this experience with our Deane-Porter families. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Shari Feeney,
Principal Deane-Porter School