

The Dolphin Splash

District Website: <http://www.frsd.k12.nj.us>

Main Office: 284-7540



January 2020



Important January Dates

- 1/2 Classes Resume
- 1/8 PTO Meeting 7:00 PM
- 1/15 Family Technology Night 6:00-8:00
- 1/16 Winter Concert: 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- 1/20 School Closed—Martin Luther King Day
- 1/28 Early Dismissal—Staff Development Day



Important February Dates

- National School Counselor Appreciation Week
- 2/5 PTO Meeting 9:30 AM
- 2/6 Elementary School Report Cards—Parent Portal Open
- 2/14 School Closed—Staff Development Day
- 2/17 School Closed—President's Day
- 2/21 PTO PICTO Night 5:30-8:00 (Snow Date March 6)
- 2/26 Kindergarten Registration at FAD (Snow Date March 5)



Treat others as you want to be treated

Character Trait for January: Diligence & Perseverance

Featured Teacher

Congratulations —Francis A. Desmares Teachers of the Year!

We are so proud to have Ms. Gorka and Mrs. Koelle represent Desmares School as our Teachers of the Year.

Ms. Gorka—Fourth Grade Teacher

Ms. Alaina Gorka became a Desmares Dolphin in 2001. She graduated from Slippery Rock University with a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. She earned a master's degree in Mathematical Foundations from Fairleigh Dickinson. Ms. Gorka began her career in education as a kindergarten teacher on Hilton Head Island but missed home and returned to the northeast area to become a Desmares Dolphin! She enjoys traveling particularly to Europe and has found a home away from home with her son Christian in Valencia, Spain. Ms. Gorka also enjoys working out, kayaking and is working on becoming fluent in Spanish. Ms. Gorka absolutely loves being a teacher and finds fourth grade to be the absolute best grade to teach! She is thankful every day to be a part of such a great district!



Mrs. Koelle—Math Support Teacher

Mrs. Koelle graduated from Douglass College, Rutgers University. She always wanted to be a teacher and her favorite subjects are science and math. Mrs. Koelle loves to spend time with her husband, her three children Matt, Joe, Elizabeth and her dog, Chip. She enjoys doing math puzzles, gardening, and traveling, especially to Disney and the beach. Mrs. Koelle's favorite saying "Hakuna Matata".

Valentine's Day Celebrations

With **Valentines Day** just around the corner, it's a good time to review our guidelines for classroom celebrations. All food and beverages brought to school for sharing with other students must have the prior approval of the classroom teacher at least a week in advance to plan safely for students with life threatening allergies. Please do not send in any candy, soda or food listing sugar as the first two ingredients. This includes candy attached to Valentine cards or goodie bags intended to send home. Consider healthy choices in age appropriate portions.

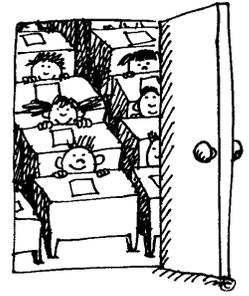
Thank you and **Happy Valentines Day!**



Classroom Assignments

Parents and teachers may already be thinking about classroom assignments for next year. So, we thought it might be helpful for you to know how we go about matching students and teachers each year.

Your child's current teacher is personally involved in selecting his or her teacher for next year. In fact, the teachers of each grade level meet as a team with content specialist and the school counselor to discuss each student's needs and the most appropriate placement. In making their recommendations, all of the following factors are considered:



- The learning style of each student;
- The teaching style of each teacher;
- A proper balance of boys and girls in each classroom;
- A balance of readiness and skills in each classroom;
- A balance of social maturity among the students;
- Desirable social combinations of students;
- A balance of independent and cooperative learners in each classroom;
- A blend of personal qualities and strengths, which will enrich the learning experiences of all the students in each class.

Much time and effort is put into the development of class lists. While parental input is always helpful, the factors listed above are weighted more heavily in determining the appropriate class placement for each student. It is our responsibility to balance many factors, to the ultimate benefit of all our students.

Therefore, we ask that you not request a teacher for your child. If you have additional information about your child that you feel would be beneficial in determining placement, **please complete the [Parent Input Form](#).** The Parent Input Form is designed to gather parent input about your child. You are not required to fill out this form, but encouraged to do so if you have any information you would like to share. The form can be found on our school's webpage.

Thank you in advance for your understanding. Please know that we all work together to place your child in a learning environment best suited to his or her academic and emotional growth. Every member of our teaching staff is a professional, committed to the education of your child.



In order to better meet the needs of our educational community, we are forming a site-based advisory committee for the 2019-2020 School Year, which will offer guidance for the learning goals and direction of Desmares School. If you feel that you would like to participate in this worthwhile endeavor, please complete the [Site-Based Advisory Committee Form](#). We are looking for five or six parents from varying grade levels who will come together to provide input and support.

The committee will meet four times this year, or once per month, with the first meeting scheduled for February. The meetings will be held on Wednesday one-hour prior to the already scheduled PTO Meetings.

Thank you for your time with this matter. Research has shown that when administrators, teachers and parents work together with a shared vision for improvement then positive changes will take place.