



2023-24 Welcome Letter to Our Families

July 18, 2023

Dear Emerson Families,

Last year, we borrowed from teachings of Bruce Lee and centered our actions on this wisdom: “Fear not the person who knows 10,000 kicks, but rather the person who knows 1 kick and has practiced it 10,000 times.” We made progress on many fronts -- added Preschool to extend learning opportunity; partnered with G Road to offer exceptional after-school programming; improved Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS); exercised a Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS); acknowledged students regularly for demonstrations of Respect, Responsibility, and Care; promoted Excellent Attendance (96%+ rate); and attracted and hired excellent teachers. In essence, we know our systems, our “1 kick.” To stray from this path is to risk the abandonment of progress. To remain on it is to live those words of wisdom and to look forward.

As we gaze upon the next horizon, we continue to pursue student success, and we consider a new lesson from Bruce Lee:

“The successful warrior is the average person, with laser-like focus.”



This year we will focus with laser-like intensity on **clear instruction -- clarity**. We look forward to Curriculum Night when we will share with you our plan to get there. Until then, we present to you our teaching team for the 2023-24 School Year:

Pre-K - Ms. Renata Bitoy

TK - Ms. Valerie Fuentes

KG - Ms. Amari Brown

1st - Ms. Mikayla Dwyer

2nd - Ms. Sarah Lawrence

3rd - Ms. Carlee Schram

4th - Ms. Mary Douglas

5th - Ms. Christine Goodwin

MS Math - Ms. Katy Calderon

MS ELA - Mr. Zein Sy

MS Science - Ms. Nimisha Nair

MS Soc. Studies - Mr. Gabriel Santiago

Music - Ms. Emily Flathers

Art - Ms. Britahn Newbill

P.E. - Ms. Tarranum Handa

Media - Ms. Miranda Lehman

Autism - Ms. Jenn Maurer, Mr. Kelly

Adler, Ms. Tongtong Wu, Mr. Richard

Nelson, Ms. Briana Gaitan, Mr. Marcos

Santos, Mr. Jonathan Oseguera

Resource K-4 - Mr. Fernando Gomez

Resource 5-8 - Ms. Ashley Mobley

Math Interventionist 5-8th - Ms.

GiHwa Hughes

Reading Interventionist K-3 - Ms. Betty

Ann Townsend

EL Interventionist - Ms. Helena Tselos

ALPS - Ms. Erin MacFarland

Master Teacher - Ms. Stephanie Fuentes

Master Teacher in Autism - Mr. Adam Lovelady

Behavioral Interventionist - Mr. Nik Martin

Psychologist - Ms. Meredith Swank

Social Worker - Ms. Julie Robbins

Nurse - Ms. Wendy Hall

SLPs - Ms. Kirsten Jenner, Ms. Lorraine Swartzendruber

FACES - Ms. Dulce Aguilar

We remain committed to the vision we collectively established in Summer 2019 to be an ‘A’ school within five years. It is Year 5, and we have work to do. Let’s get busy... together. Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

Emerson Upward,

Nicholas Lodato

Emerson Principal