

Robert P.T. Coffin Elementary School



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Dear Parents or Guardians,

Greetings! Welcome back to Coffin School for what promises to be another incredible year. My name is Eric Funderburk, your child's grade 1 & 2 multi-age teacher for the upcoming school year. I want to welcome back our 8 returning 2nd grade families and students. Welcome also to our new students who are entering first grade. If anyone was in Mrs. Sapp's, Lemont's, Lucas', Hunt's, or Rickards' class, then your child came into our classroom to buddy read late last school year!

This will be my 8th year as a classroom teacher. I'm starting my seventh year here at Coffin School (where I absolutely love working). I have been working on a mini-team with the multi-age teachers for four years. This will be my 3rd year teaching multi-age. We're currently working within the district to expand the multi-age program to upper elementary, so keep your ears peeled. I have taught first grade here at Coffin School & in the Lewiston School district. For first grade families unfamiliar with multi-age, expect more info later in the summer.

I'm sure new families and returning families may have some questions about the new school year so we'll start with **important dates** and **our class website** to get us started:

1. **2nd Grade Gathering – Thursday August 16 from 5:30-6:00 PM @ Nathaniel Davis Park** (next to Tess' Market on Pleasant St) – This is the location and evening of Movies in the Park (feat. *Coco*), so everyone, including 1st graders, is welcome to drop by and say hello. This is an extra special opportunity for 2nd graders to reconnect with each other and for us to reestablish expectations & jobs as role models for our incoming 1st graders. RSVP by e-mail if you can make it.
2. **Drop in Evening – Thursday August 30 from 4:30-5:30 PM in Room 18** – All children are invited to stop by anytime between 4:30-5:30, to say "hello", see your new classroom, & to meet some new classmates
3. **First Day of School is Tuesday September 4** for all incoming first and second graders
4. **School-wide Open House Wednesday September 26 – 6 – 7 PM** - This is a family night when children take ownership of sharing their classrooms with their families. All family members are welcome!
5. **More Information About This Year**
 - Our class website (www.brunswick.k12.me.us/efunderburk) is the best way to get more information about the multi-age format, schedule, science and social studies content for the new year, links, newsletters, etc. While the website site in the midst of being revamped for the new school year, check back frequently as it will be updated soon. I will update what our schedule will look like later in August.
 - For first grade families who would like more information about multi-age programming please contact me at efunderburk@brunswick.k12.me.us I'm happy to schedule a time to share more!
 - **About Your Child:** First grade families: I'd like to learn a little bit about your child. When you have a chance, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9vsrh3w> (or click [HERE](#)) to fill out an About Your Child survey (2nd grade families may fill it out again as well). *I'm the only one who sees this information.*

(See other side for Class Supply List)



Lastly, here is a list of our needs for classroom supplies. Optional items are at the bottom of the list. Don't feel pressured to supply all of the optional items. If most families were able to choose 1 or 2 items on the optional list, we'd be set. Keep in mind that I try to have a few extras of all of these items (including folders, crayons, scissors and composition books), so if you're having trouble finding something, no worries. We'll have your child covered:

For All To Bring :

- 1 pack of crayons
- 2 to 4 twelve ct-packs of Ticonderoga no. 2 pencils
- 1 hard case plastic pencil boxes– to hold pencils, crayons, scissors, etc.
- Sturdy plastic folders with **pockets** and **three holed fasteners – 1 RED & 1 Blue**
- 1 four pack (or more) of thin dry erase markers – any color (Expo is a good brand)
- 1 box of tissues for the classroom
- 1 or 2 packs of eraser caps
- 1 black/white wide lined composition book (2nd graders only)
- 1 pack of dry erase markers (any brand – to be used by students on dry erase boards)

Optional Items:

- 1 box of quart sized **or** gallon-sized zip lock bags
- 1 pack of colored pencils
- 1 bag of clothes pins – large or small (only need 2 total)
- Strips of sturdy Velcro fasteners
- 1-2 boxes of eraser tops – any kind, any number
- 1 magic eraser cleaning sponge
- A spool of ribbon (any color or look)
- Sticky poster putty (the blue colored putty has worked well in the past)
- 1 pair of scissors – **with name or initials on handle**
- 1 package of multi-colored sharpies or thick dry erase markers
- Magnetic strips or dots (sticky on one side for affixing to a magnetic surface)
- Hearty nut-free snacks to start off our year (i.e. applesauce packs, Veggie sticks, pretzels, raisins.)

I'm looking forward to re-joining forces with our 2nd graders and getting to know our fresh-faced and re-energized incoming first graders. Our incredible journey isn't very far away. I urge you to check out our classroom website **and** to fill out the About Your Child survey mentioned earlier. If you can please stop by during "Family Drop In" on Thursday evening, August 30 between 4:30-5:30 and/or look for me on August 16th at Davis Park. I'm honored to be able to join you and your child on their new school year quest. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Eric Funderburk

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