Greetings Albertville Primary Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the staff at Albertville Primary School I would like to welcome you to kindergarten. Albertville Primary is a friendly, positive, and secure place in which to learn and work. Together, staff members and parents have partnered to create an enriching environment where children can grow intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. It is a cooperative and happy environment where parents and teachers work together as partners in the education of their children.

This is my third year as the proud principal at Albertville Primary School. I possess over 22 years of educational experience at various levels: as a classroom teacher, peer observer/instructional coach, assistant principal, and now as principal. I started my career in the Big Lake School District teaching 1st grade. Prior to working at STMA, I spent 2 years as the Assistant Principal at Delano Elementary School. I am excited to continue to bring my wide-range of experiences to Albertville Primary and to work with your son/daughter and you, as partners in education.

Along with the staff at Albertville Primary, I will work hard to continue the tradition of excellence established by building strong relationships with parents, students, staff, and community partners. Our focus will continue with the Six Pillars of Character Counts, fostering a nurturing, safe environment for children, using data to drive instruction, and providing exciting and challenging learning opportunities for all students. I anticipate a highly successful year as we work together to support academic, social, and emotional growth for your child at Albertville Primary.

Over the course of the year, it is my hope that we can work together to provide the students at Albertville Primary with the best possible opportunities in preparing them to be good students and citizens. My door is always open, and I welcome your input. Please feel free to stop in or call to make an appointment to discuss any suggestions, concerns, or ideas to help make the school year a success.

Sincerely,

Mr. John McDonald

johnm@mystma.org

~School Hours~
7:45-2:00 p.m.

Students who do not ride the bus are encouraged to arrive between 7:20 & 7:30 A.M.
Busing is provided for all kindergarten students. However, if you choose to drop off your child, please follow these procedures to ensure the safety of all students.

- Enter the front (west) parking lot.
- Students should sit on the rear, passenger side of the vehicle and be prepared to exit the vehicle when it is their turn.
- **Pull all the way up to the stop sign** and a staff member, stationed outside door A, will open the rear passenger door for you.
- Students will enter the building via door A. A staff member will be on duty inside door A to assist and welcome students as they enter the building.

If you prefer to walk your child into the building or need additional time unloading, please park in the parking lot and use the crosswalk to enter the building.

A crossing guard will also be on duty on Main Avenue to help students that choose to walk, safely cross the street.

Parents will only be permitted to walk their children to classrooms on September 5 & 6 only. Beginning September 10 through the remainder of the year, parents will not be permitted past the vestibule without first signing in at the office. This is to ensure the safety of all students.

Students riding the bus will unload and enter the building via door B. A staff member will be on duty to maintain safety.

Thanks, in advance, for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of all Primary students.

If you are picking up your child at dismissal time, please park and enter the school through door A. The classroom teacher will bring your child to you. Please be prepared to show picture identification. To ensure the safety of all students, parents/guardians will not be permitted past Trustworthiness Avenue (first north-south hallway). Doors open for parent pick up at 1:50 pm.

Walkers will be escorted by the classroom teacher to meet the crossing guard at door A. The crossing guard will help students cross Main Avenue.

Students taking the bus will be escorted to their bus by the classroom teacher. Buses will load at door B.
STMA is dedicated to strengthening the character of young people through promotion of the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship (T. R. R. F. C. C.). Below is the month in which each pillar will be focused on district-wide. All students, staff, parents, and community members are encouraged to wear the colors listed in parentheses.

Sept. ~ Introduce/Overview (Wear All CHARACTER COUNTS! colors on Sept. 11)
Oct. ~ Trustworthiness (Blue on Oct. 9)
Nov. ~ Respect (Yellow on Nov. 13)
Dec. ~ Review/Celebrate (Wear All CHARACTER COUNTS! colors on Dec. 11)
Jan. ~ Responsibility (Green on Jan. 8)
Feb. ~ Fairness (Orange on Feb. 12)
March ~ Caring (Red on March 18)
Apr. ~ Citizenship (Purple on April 8)
May ~ Review/Celebrate (Wear All CHARACTER COUNTS! colors on May 13)

Join us as we teach and model the Six Pillars of Character.

Visitor Badges

Student safety is our priority. Visiting Albertville Primary is a privilege. Guests are required to abide by district and school policies and expectations. Guest privileges may be revoked by administration.

Visitors must park in the front lot, not along the emergency lane. Visitors will be asked to state their name, their child’s name, and the purpose of their visit before being admitted to the building. Upon entrance, visitors who travel beyond the office are required to present a government-issued picture ID. Office staff will scan the ID in the VMS (Raptor-Visitor Management System). The VMS verifies identity, tracks check-in and check-out times, and prints a visitor badge with photo ID. The VMS also provides custom alerts and screens visitor information with a national and local database.

For security purposes and to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, visitors are not allowed to enter classrooms or hallways, or remain in the building, unless they have checked-in in the office. If parents drop off items, the office staff will deliver items or, if necessary, call students to the office.

Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for information on the visitor policy.

ALL Volunteers Need a Background Check

Volunteers are welcome at Albertville Primary School! Most school volunteers and chaperones need to have a one-time $15 district background check. Go to the STMA web page: Click “Our District” - Volunteer/District Background Check. Use the email address rebeccah@mystma.org and provide your full legal name, email address, and phone number. A link to a website that accepts credit card payments will be emailed to you.

Check out Albertville Primary School on Facebook & Twitter!
The STMA School District has an established District Advisory Committee (DAC) to ensure members of the public and educators work together in a positive way to improve the quality of education for all children in the community. The American Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee is a sub-committee of the DAC charged with the task of providing parents the necessary information and the opportunity to express their views concerning all aspects of American Indian education and the education needs of the American Indian children enrolled in the district. The committee is composed of parents of children eligible to be enrolled in American Indian education programs and secondary students eligible to be served, along with school district personnel, and representatives from community groups. The committee meets four times per school year, and reports once a year to the DAC informing them of areas of strength and areas of improvement in regards to the district’s programming for American Indian students, and working with the DAC to recommend action in the area of American Indian Education programming improvement. Highlights of the 2018-2019 AIPAC activities included an STMA American Indian Family Night, AIPAC Book Donations to all STMA Media Centers and co-sponsoring the first annual Two Rivers Powwow.

During the 2019-2020 school year, the American Indian Education Advisory Committee will be meeting in the District Staff Development Room located in Middle School WEST at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 19th, Monday, November 25th, Monday, January 13th and Thursday, March 25th.

If you are a parent of a student who is eligible to be enrolled in American Indian education programs and are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Teri Johnson, Director of Teaching & Learning, for more information. She can be reached via e-mail at terij@mystma.org.

Parents of Primaries (P.O.P.’s) is the parent organization at Albertville Primary School. The goal of P.O.P.’s is to support and encourage the students, parents and staff of Albertville Primary.

Meeting dates are:
- October 8
- December 10
- February 11
- April 14

Parents are also encouraged to attend a PTO meeting at one of the district’s three elementary buildings. Meeting dates, times, and locations can be found on individual school web sites.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. McDonald at (763) 497-2688.
Where will my kindergartner go for 1st grade?

Students are assigned to an elementary school based on their home address. Daycare does not determine elementary boundaries. If your child goes to a daycare, please remember that your daycare MUST be located in the same attendance boundary as your home address. The bus company does not provide transportation into another attendance boundary. Please check out the boundary map on the district web site (district—new student enrollment—attendance boundaries) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Don’s Bus at 763-497-2585 or you can call the Primary School office at 763-497-2688.

Hearing & Vision Screening

We will be conducting hearing and vision screening with all of the students at Albertville Primary during Orientation Days on September 3 and 4. Those students who do not pass the initial screening will be re-screened two to four weeks later. If your child still does not pass hearing or vision screening, you will receive a letter by the end of November.

The vision screening consists of checking distance vision. We will also be checking color vision with all of the boys. We do not screen other components of vision such as near vision, eye teaming (the ability of the eyes to work together), eye focusing (the ability of the eyes to focus and shift focus on near and distance points) or comprehension of what the eye sees. If you have concerns regarding any of these components of vision or you notice any of the following possible symptoms of eye and vision problems, you may want to have your child’s vision evaluated by an eye doctor even if your child passed vision screening at school.

- places head close to the book or desk when reading or writing
- has poor hand-eye coordination
- complains of double vision
- unexplained, frequent headaches
- excessively blinks or rubs eyes
- turns or tilts head to use one eye only or closes or covers one eye
- has reddened, watering eyes, encrusted eyelids, frequent styes

Should you have any questions regarding hearing and vision screening, please call me at 497-6520.

Julie Winkelman, School Nurse.
Information on Lice

The spread of lice is a possibility any time of the year. Therefore, parents should check their children’s head for lice on a regular basis throughout the school year. Lice are small (1/8 to 1/10 of an inch), wingless, tan or reddish brown parasites. Undisturbed, individual lice can live up to 30 days. They are most often found behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. They are very small and hard to see. A bright light and a magnifying glass will aid in identification. Lice tend to move away from light, so you may only see the nits. Nits are the eggs laid by adult lice, which are attached by a glue-like substance to hair shafts close to the scalp. The nits are small, plump and cream colored if they are alive and flat and white if they are dead or empty. Nits are uniform in shape and stick to the hair, whereas dandruff is loose and different shapes. The eggs hatch in seven to ten days, providing a fresh supply of lice. Lice travel by crawling, and cannot fly or jump. Lice cannot survive off the human body for more than two days. They do not live on pets or inanimate objects for more than 48 hours, but these can be vehicles of transmission for them. Any nits that fall off the head will not hatch or reattach. The eggs cannot survive and will not hatch on pets and inanimate objects. Live/crawling lice are communicable, dead lice and nits are not. However, once the nits hatch, the person again has live lice, which are communicable. Lice are spread by direct contact with an infested person’s head/hair or with inanimate objects that have come in contact with an infested person’s head/hair within the past seven to ten days; such as combs, brushes, hair accessories, hats, clothing, bedding, pillows, stuffed animals, etc. So, remind your child not to share combs, brushes, hair accessories, hats, clothing, pillows or stuffed animals. Anyone can get lice. Lice are not associated with dirt; in fact, they prosper more readily on a clean scalp rather than a neglected one. If you identify any lice or nits on your child, call the Health Office or main line (763-497-6520, 762-497-2688). We have a detailed packet of information on treatment options, nit removal, and cleaning the home environment. Do not treat your child or other family members if no lice or nits are identified.

If you have any questions, contact Julie Winkelman, School Nurse, at 763-497-6520.