

## Principal's Message and Greeting

Ashlyn A. Ecker, Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Northside Elementary School and the 2019-2020 school year!

Our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly throughout the summer to get Northside ready, and all we need now is our students on August 21<sup>st</sup>!

As you may know the Comprehensive Steering Committee, a group of stakeholders including teachers, parents, students, administrators and community volunteers worked tirelessly this year to further chart our school district's journey over the next decade. An essential question that the committee was charged with answering was,

*"What might our elementary program look like over the next 5-7 years at its ideal best?"*

The capstone of this committee's work was the creation of the district Vision, which joins our district Mission Statement to guide our efforts at Northside this coming school year and beyond.

### **Our Vision**

A Learning Community

*Inspired to Explore - Empowered to Innovate*

### **Our Mission Statement**

The mission of the Mechanicsburg Area School District is to develop:

- Resilient, self-directed learners able to achieve personal goals
- Critical and creative thinkers capable of transferring knowledge to new situations
- Collaborative team players with effective communication skills
- Productive, responsible citizens in a diverse and ever-changing global society

Over the past three years, our teachers have spent countless hours overhauling the district's English Language Arts and Math curriculum to ensure these were addressing state standards and, more importantly, fostering deep understanding of literacy and math skills essential for their role as productive, contributing members of today's society. These changes bring many new learning opportunities for our students, and we are excited for them as we support their growth towards meaning making and transfer of skills to real world situations.

Your involvement is the key to reaching this goal. There are many, many ways to stay actively involved in your child's success in school. Open communication with the classroom teacher is one of the BEST ways to stay involved...talk with the teacher, sign up for Seesaw, ask questions about what your child is learning, understand how progress in school is measured....never be afraid to ask when something is new or unclear to you. That is our job to ensure you are part of this journey!

Another good idea for keeping up-to-date about school happenings is signing up for the Sapphire information system. If you'd like assistance, you can sign up at Back to School Night (Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 pm) or you can access it via our easy-to-navigate district website ([www.mbgdsd.org](http://www.mbgdsd.org)).

Finally, you are encouraged to visit Northside's website regularly. In addition to updated teacher web pages, there is a frequently asked questions section as well as a calendar of important dates. You can also find the Wildcat Monthly newsletter which is sent home to keep families informed about upcoming events and happening at Northside Elementary.

Here's to a great school year filled with learning, growing, and memory making!

## ***Mrs. Ecker***

Photos from my Mechanicsburg scrapbook, 1996-2018



Kindergarten at Upper Allen, Spring 1996



5<sup>th</sup> Grade at Filbert St., Fall 2002



6<sup>th</sup> grade Math, Amazing Cats team, at MMS, Spring 2008



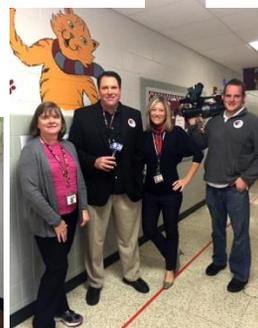
Shepherdstown Principal, Spring 2010



MMS Assistant Principal, Spring 2013



Northside Principal, Winter 2014



A Visit by Steve Knight from Channel 21 COOL SCHOOLS, Fall 2015



Go for the Gold! Summer Reading Pancake Breakfast, Fall 2016



The Final Northside Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. Teachers Kickball Game June 2018