

Dear Hawley Families,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I am excited for my new role as your Lead Teacher, and I am looking forward to all of the rewards and challenges that a new school year brings. Hawley School is often described by staff, students, and parents/guardians as a "family," and I know this to be true. Our school is a place that is joyful, challenging, supportive, and safe, with staff and families coming together to do "what's best for kids." I know that when we work together as a team of dedicated educators and caring families, we can make this school year the best one yet for our students.

At Hawley, we believe that strong, positive relationships are the foundation for students' success and happiness at school. We know that students learn best when they feel connected to their school through friendships with their peers and support from the adults with whom they work. To achieve this climate, we follow the Responsive Classroom model, which emphasizes academics, community, and effective management. We also use the social-emotional curriculum Second Step to teach children about managing their emotions and solving social problems. Responsive Classroom and Second Step allow teachers and students to guide their interactions in everything from generating rules to managing conflicts, all while keeping positive relationships and connections to others at the forefront.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to help your child be successful this year as they learn and grow academically, socially, and emotionally. I look forward to working with your child and you to make this the best year yet!

Warmly,
Jenna Connors
Lead Teacher

