

Date: Fri, Sep 15, 2017 at 5:33 PM
Subject: Re: Ryan School Update 9/15/17
To: jmcinnes@tewksbury.k12.ma.us

Hello Ryan School Families,

We have completed our first full week of school with quite a feeling of success. I hope you enjoyed the Open Houses and meeting your child's teachers. I got quite a bit of positive feedback from the teachers as they are very excited to work with you and your child this year.

Recently, I have been contacted by a couple of grade 5 parents/guardians who have expressed concerns around the recess process/procedures so I felt it best to address it with all families. The primary concerns were about separating the students by teams during their recess time and the recess time being deemed highly structured. At the Ryan, lunch and recess times are monitored by the teachers and aides on staff.

Historically, we have separated teams *as needed* based on the number of students at that recess, the needs of the students and any safety concerns we are aware of in advance. Also, we strongly encourage students to make new friends with their peers on their new team as the school year begins in order to build a sense of belonging on their team. In the past, as all of the teachers and aides get to know students on other teams, the students have had a joint recess *if it is possible*. As we are only at day 11 of school, this has not yet happened because the teachers and aides are still learning their students, but it is quite likely to happen in the future. While on the playground, students are given general safety rules but are otherwise allowed to play and socialize. I hope this sheds some clarification on the recess time and how it is run at this point in time. Further consideration will be given to our recess practices as the year progresses.

I want to end by thanking the Ryan School PAC for all of the efforts in fundraising for our school. I am pleased to say that we have devices in classrooms so we will look now to beautify the school. Thank you all!

Best,
Judi McInnes
Principal