

Dear Parents,

Last week I announced my retirement at the end of this school year. I have received many, many well-wishes and I am grateful for them. In my letter I provided an assurance that I would “principal” during these last weeks at Bridge Point as if this were my first year. It’s a job that does not lend well to “coasting”.

So...the annual Spring “nag” about TARDIES!!

I begin with a huge chunk of encouragement. Out of the blue in January we adjusted our school day to add 10 minutes; five minutes earlier for arrival and five minutes later for dismissal. Most of you have adjusted nicely. I cannot thank you enough for making this adjustment a priority. Especially adjusting your morning routines to make sure your child gets to school and is in place to begin school at 7:45 AM in the cafeteria. Mid-stream routine changes are always a challenge and you are holding up your end. You are modeling beautifully the lifeskill of being, in the words I shared with the students, “*where* you are supposed to be, *when* you are supposed to be there.”

Now the “nag”: Today’s Morning Assembly extended a bit. Students who are not in place at 7:45 AM are directed to sit in the back of the cafeteria so they do not disturb classmates. Today over 100 students had gathered in the back...indicating at least that many who were not “where they were supposed to be, when they were supposed to be there”. I noted where they were sitting and why. I told them *it is not their fault*. Parents completely control if their child gets to school on time. I told them I would be reminding all parents...nagging a bit...that if their child is not on time, the child is not responsible. The parent is. I explained that if parents somehow get themselves to airports on time to catch a flight (and we always do!) then they can adjust routines to make it so their child arrives at school on time. A late child discomforts the child and makes the teacher’s work more difficult. We need your help. Prioritize your morning so your child does not face the daily discomfort of entering late.

**Grace period is over.** We will re-institute tardy slips on Monday, April 4. The doors to the cafeteria, the gym and middle entrance lock at the 7:45 AM bell. All students arriving after 7:45 AM will go to the main entrance to enter the building. They will receive a tardy slip and move on to the assembly. I hope this will motivate those of you who have not yet adjusted to the new start time so your child is at school on time. It’s up to you.

Sincerely,

M. Bradford Wirht  
Principal

