

Welcome to the start of another fantastic year at South Shore Elementary School. I am Stacy Shafran and I am the proud principal of South Shore. This is my fifteenth year in Anne Arundel County and my third year as principal here at South Shore.

As an educator I have always been passionate about preparing our students for the future. I remember when I was in the classroom and we purchased our first SMART Board for the school. We all took turns and each had the opportunity to use it once in a while. Thanks to our PTA, as you look around our school, you will now see a school full of SMARTBoards. Our school is also equipped with projectors, Document Cameras, Chromebooks, iPads, OSMOs, and even a 3D printer. We continue to build our technology tools keeping our school on the cutting edge.

Every day we see students engaged with technology filling their toolbox with 21st century skills. Whether using technology for formative assessments or for reading, our students are actively learning. I am so proud of all of the work being done at South Shore.

Teachers are using the IB philosophy by creating real world opportunities and bringing the curriculum to life. For example, first graders are able to “live” lifecycles by watching caterpillars become beautiful butterflies. Check them out in our first grade classrooms.

Students are already immersed in guided reading. A time when students are engaged in small group reading instruction with their teacher, and differentiated independent and center activities. Classrooms are equipped with leveled libraries so that students can easily identify independent books for reading.

This year, our teachers will begin using flipped learning. Flipped learning is an approach in which direct instruction moves from the group to the individual learning space. This enables us to use our diagnostics and further differentiate our program for our students. Parents in grades 3, 4, and 5 are engaging in a flipped learning environment this evening. Even if you aren't a parent of an intermediate student, teachers have make and take stations set up for you to help promote reading and math at home.

Whether completing music centers using boomwhackers, navigating the Paris metro system, creating mosaic tiles, or cup stacking, our cultural arts team is constantly integrating content standards into their instruction.

Our parent volunteers are an integral part of our school. We love having our volunteers help with classroom activities and even chaperone one of our field trips. Speaking of field trips, all classes will take at least two trips this year. These trips are always centered around their PYP units and curriculum. Students love to explore their units at various locations around our area.

Our school is committed to providing movement and brain breaks periodically throughout the day. In addition our green school status is visible throughout our building ask any student for their latest recycling tips.

As you tour our building, be sure to check out our IB Board. This serves as our command center for our PYP units. Some other highlights are our LEGO Board, Makerspace, and our mosaic artist in residence pieces. This year, be on the lookout for more parent opportunities to engage in our school curriculum. Our dedicated teachers are preparing global citizens, innovators, problem solvers, and giving our students the opportunity to make their mark on the world.

I look forward to our continued partnership this year! Our fabulous secretaries, wonderful custodial and food services staff, compassionate school counselor, sensational special education and reading team, creative cultural arts team, engaging classroom teachers, outstanding students and families all make South Shore the best school in Anne Arundel County. Wishing each of you a wonderful evening,

6:30 Report to your first classroom

6:35 Video

Greetings from Mrs. Shafran and the PTA.

6:40-7:05 First Session

7:05- 7:10 Break

7:10- 7:35 Second Session