



Dear Portland Students and Families:

Welcome to Explore 2018!

My name is Liza Dicken and I am delighted to be with you at Portland this summer as your July Explore Principal. I am originally from Kentucky, but I have recently settled near the Springfield area outside of Republic. As a teacher in Kentucky, I worked with 3rd through 5th grade students and I served as an administrator at the elementary level for one year. For the past two years I have been teaching first grade at Westport Elementary School here in Springfield. I am looking forward to my work this summer at Portland, where I can use all of those experiences to make this session a great learning adventure for everyone.

Although our time together is short, I will take every opportunity to meet you and your children. In addition to spending quality time with our students throughout the school each day, I will be available to you during arrival and dismissal. My ultimate goal is for Portland to remain a welcoming and safe environment where your child can learn and grow.

The July session of Explore will run from Thursday, July 5th through Tuesday, July 31st. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students. If your child is riding a bus to Portland you can expect the "Where's my stop?" postcards in the mail by June 25th.

Good attendance will still be extremely important during the summer months. Being on time and at school every day will help your child be familiar with our routines and ensure that they get to enjoy all the activities offered to them in each session.

During the second session of Explore I plan to use the same procedures that Mr. Masterson put in place during the June session. The only changes could be the addition of a few friendly staff members who are eager to share the great hands-on experiences and field trips with your child.

If you would like to contact me please do so at, ejdicken@spsmail.org.

I am looking forward to working with you and our students this summer.

Sincerely,

Liza Dicken

Portland Explore Principal, July