



Dear Families at Sara Collins Elementary,

How exciting that we will be celebrating our 56<sup>th</sup> year of Sara Collins Elementary during this school year! "Learning is Our Superpower!" is our school theme for the 2020-21 school year given the unusual circumstances we are facing to begin this year. After serving in education for twenty-seven years, I have never experienced the way we are needing to adjust our guidelines, processes and procedures for students to learn and especially to keep everyone safe. We will continue to do our best during these uncertain times working collaboratively through our partnership with our students, staff, families, and school community.

Our focus continues to be on learning and teaching at our International Baccalaureate (IB) school for Primary Years Program. Our school was first authorized in 2004 and every five years it has been reauthorized as an IB school for another five years. Please refer to <https://ibo.org/about-the-ib/> to learn more about IB and how we teach the South Carolina state standards which can be found at this site <https://www.ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/>. Our school will continue the tradition of high student achievement and growth through strong relationships among our families, students, staff members and support from our school community.

We continue to have a Personalized Learning focus. Our students and teachers will continue learning techniques and tools to utilize technology to enhance learning. All Kindergarten - fifth grade students will receive Chromebook devices. Students will be taught to use them safely for instruction and to manage and care for the device.

Our school provides a safe, loving, and nurturing environment where all students continue to grow and become successful in learning- academically, socially, and emotionally. Our students' successes are reflected in the strong partnerships that have been established between school and home. This is demonstrated through the remarkable collaboration, teamwork, and support provided by our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). By setting high expectations and continued collaboration we will continue to meet the needs of all our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Burns".

Melissa Burns, Ed. D.  
Principal