



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
SIGONELLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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August 14, 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! I look forward to meeting you and working with you and your children this year. I have planned a school orientation for parents and students on Thursday, August 23rd at 1600 hours in Knight's Hall (the elementary school gym).

Last year our school was fully accredited by AdvancEd, an independent accreditation agency. We were awarded several commendations for our program and were tasked with continuing our school improvement work. Parents are invited to participate in any and all meetings held at the school. Parent involvement is an important and critical component of our school improvement.

Sigonella ES will continue the school improvement process this year by reviewing our assessments, adjusting our instruction, and implementing strategies to reach our two CSI goals:

- All students will improve writing in all curricular areas as measured by the selected system-wide and school-based assessments.
- All students will improve in math in all curricular areas as measured by the selected system-wide and school-based assessments.

Class lists are a work in progress (as always). We have spent many hours creating and refining the class lists. The intent is to ensure that all classes have balanced number of students by: gender, ability levels, and race/ethnicity. This continually changes as we enroll new students. **According to school policy, changes to the class lists cannot be made until after 10 school days.** This will allow the student and teacher some time to bond and work together. The final class lists will be posted on **Friday, August 24 at 1200 hours** in front of the school for your convenience.

Open House is for all grade levels - including kindergarten. It will begin right after the class lists are posted. You are invited to check the lists and then proceed with your children to the classrooms to meet your child's teachers. Open House will only last for one hour (from 1200-1300 hours). **This Open House idea is new and it is the first time**

**we have invited parents to come meet the teachers before the first day.** In order for this to be successful I need your cooperation in keeping your visit to one hour. By limiting the time of the Open House, teachers will have sufficient time to get their rooms and materials ready for that big first day of school on Monday.

Our Parent Teacher Organization will provide ice cream for all of our students and parents in front of the school beginning at 1130 hours.

Again, I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the coming weeks. Please know that at Sigonella ES, we are focused on providing the very best education for your children. I encourage you to become involved in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Continuous School Improvement Committees (CSI), and our School Advisory Council (SAC). There are many opportunities for parents to become involved in the school and to help make Sigonella Elementary School the best school in the Mediterranean District!

***Here are some school dates to remember:***

- 23 August – Parent Orientation in Knight’s Hall at 1600 hours.
- 24 August – Class lists will be posted on the school doors and the NEX Food Court Bulletin Board at 1200 noon.
- 24 August – Open House in classrooms 1200-1300 hours.
- 24 August – Ice Cream party -hosted by PTO in front of the school.
- 27August – First day of school for students (first – 5<sup>th</sup> grades).
- 4 September – Boo Hoo breakfast for Kindergarten parents at 0800.
- 4 September – First day of school for Kindergarten & PSCD students.
- 13 September – First day of school for Sure Start students.

***Elementary School lunch prices are \$2.40 for students.***

Ian Coubrough  
Principal