



**Administrative Offices**  
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Dear 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Upper Darby School District families,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the final few weeks of summer as we quickly approach the first day of school on August 26, 2019. One of the exciting changes for this coming school year is our new “Departmentalized” approach for some of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade sections. By having some Math and English/Language Arts specific teachers in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, we hope to create an opportunity for deeper planning along with more explicit and targeted professional development for our teachers. This simply means that some 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will have separate teachers for Math and ELA, while others will continue to have one teacher for both. The students are not being leveled for Math and ELA at the Elementary level and whether or not they fall into a departmentalized schedule is completely random (based on the number of even or odd sections for each grade). We are very fortunate to have such a talented and highly qualified group of teachers in the Upper Darby School District who are eager to meet the needs of all students.

This information was also publicly presented at the April 23, 2019 Upper Darby School District Education and Pupil Services Committee Meeting. You can view this presentation in its entirety using the below link (the Departmentalization Presentation starts at the 19:00 minute mark of the video).

[https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/V84xBmMbzQoSI\\_mbWWqRSUHOt1A2VDRB/categories/1536/media/481341?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true&fullscreen=false&jwsource=c](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/V84xBmMbzQoSI_mbWWqRSUHOt1A2VDRB/categories/1536/media/481341?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true&fullscreen=false&jwsource=c)

When you attend Back to School Night, you will learn more about your child’s daily schedule. Further questions regarding your child or departmentalization should be directed to your child’s teacher and/or principal.

Thank you and I wish you and your family a successful 2019/2020 school year.

Sincerely,

Frank Salerno

**Opportunity • Unity • Excellence**