

June 14, 2019

Hello Everyone,

Where did the time go? Today is the last day of school for the 2018-2019 school year. It is the last day at Ivy Drive School for our fifth graders and we wish them all the best as they move on to middle school. It is also my final day of school at Ivy Drive as your Principal. I will miss you all very much!

The following is my final School Messenger phone and email message. It was sent out this evening at 6 pm to everyone in the Ivy Drive School community as we begin our summer vacation.

First of all, Ivy Drive School will be featured on *What's Right With Schools* on Channel 8 WTNH at 5:55 pm on Thursday, June 27, 2019. If you miss it, they will post it on their website at <https://www.wtnh.com/on-air/whats-right-with-school>.

Tonight's message is bittersweet for me. In my entire lifetime, I have never spent 20 years in the same house or the same job, until now. Yet, I found my passion and my joy at Ivy Drive School. I am amazed at how quickly 20 years flew by. They say, "Time flies when you are having FUN!" And, working with all of you, our teachers, our parents, and most of all, our students, has been the joy of my life for the past 20 years! That equates to spending approximately 1/3 of my life with all of you. I have never felt so connected, so much like a family, and a community. I will miss driving down Ivy Drive every day to come to school, because for the past 20 years, Ivy Drive School is the one place I couldn't wait to get to each day, and the last place I wanted to leave each night!

The good news is that I live in Bristol. My husband still has three years until he can retire, so we are not going anywhere, anytime soon. That means, I will see you in the stores, at the Post Office, and even at Lake Compounce this summer as I have a season ticket and lots of free time. ☺ So, I am not saying "good-bye" but "hello" to all of you in our neighborhood places!

What I hope you always remember no matter what, is this: We are all on a *Journey to Excellence*. You have begun yours at Ivy Drive, and who knows where you will go? What you will do? Or, who you will choose to be?

But, may you always enjoy your journey as a life-long learner, as a hands-on doer, as a community server, and an avid explorer, who chooses great adventures and follows amazing dreams. Make sure to dream BIG, stand TALL, and may each of you find your strength and your voice to make a difference. Continue to grow, continue to learn, and always strive to "Be The Best You Can Be!"

As you move on in life, and you remember your days at Ivy Drive School, just know, you will always have a place in my heart! So, enjoy the summer, best wishes to you all, and as you continue on your *Journey To Excellence*, remember to always **BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!** Be sure to *Make Lots of Noise* as you continue to **ROAR**, and as always, Keep Smiling ☺.

Thanks for 20 Great Years. May Ivy Drive School have many, many more!

Keep Smiling ☺
Dr. Vojtek