

Delta Elementary School



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July 31, 2023

To the families and community members of Delta Junction and Fort Greely:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! What a beautiful summer we are enjoying. Hopefully it will continue well into the fall. As usual, the parking lot at DES has been busy with teachers and maintenance personnel working and preparing to make this year even better than the last. 22-23 will be a hard act to follow for sure! We were named a national Blue Ribbon school, our math scores were the highest they had ever been, our enrollment climbed back to pre-Covid levels, we successfully implemented a new reading curriculum, we successfully met the challenge of giving grade level instruction and intervention to a large influx of non-English speakers, and we were able to do more community events than ever before. The passage of the Alaska Read's Act legislation will be a challenge this year, but it is a challenge we are ready for. Many of the mandates required by this law, we are already doing and have been for a while. The main hurdle for us will be mandated teacher training in the Science of Reading, but we made sure we were out in front of it and many of our teachers already have met the requirement.

We would like to welcome our new staff members this year! Miriam Colon-Colon will be teaching fourth grade. She has been a reading interventionist for a while at DES and has worked her way through school. We are so excited to have her in the classroom. Lizmarie Rivera will take over for Mrs. Reiter who retired from teaching Kindergarten last year. She was a special education teacher in Puerto Rico and is ready to take on a classroom position. We are also happy to add Augusta Mountcastle and Jessenia Matos-Ortiz to our permanent paraprofessional staff, and Sue Dickinson will join us as our daytime custodian.

We at DES are committed to making sure that your children receive the best possible whole-child educational experience. Our staff is resilient and ready to adapt to the changing climate of education in Alaska and our nation. Our mission is "To ensure that each student has the opportunity to engage in high quality education which includes social, emotional, physical, and academic pursuits." "No matter what" could be added this year. If anything comes along that is contrary to this mission, we will discard it. Alternatively, we will never stop searching for new ways to fulfill it. We need your support Delta/Greely! Our biggest challenges are absenteeism and new students who are not prepared for the rigor and high expectations we have. These are issues you can help us with. In return, we will stop at nothing to ensure that your children have the best educational experience available anywhere in our great state.

Please let us know if you have any questions. I am a huge proponent of school/home/community communication. Our school Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DeltaElementarySchool>) is very popular here in the community and we have a great website that has all the information, forms, and documents you will need (<http://deltagreely.cyberschool.com/District/Department/16-Delta-Elementary-School>). The office staff started on Wednesday August 2nd, student registration began August 2nd, the teachers will start August 14th, and the kids will be here Thursday August 17th. Our open house will be Tuesday the 15th at 4:30 and we can't wait to see everyone there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milt Hooton".

Milt Hooton
Principal
Delta Elementary School
mhooton@dgsd.us

