



August 4, 2022

Dear Families,

This letter starts with some good news: finally, we can announce our new teacher for second and third grade.

Grace Loew has been teaching for seventeen years, most recently in Central Harlem. Last year, she was a coach for other teachers; now, she feels “overjoyed to be returning” to the classroom. Grace is passionate about studying nature with children, helping them develop “new perspectives and ideas,” and reading about the art of teaching. She comes to CPE1 “to learn from its long history and to contribute to its continued future as a model of progressive education.” Grace is not coming alone: her three children will be starting CPE1 this year, too.

It has been months since our hiring committee invited Grace to work at CPE1, but as I wrote before, budget cuts prevented her from transferring. On Tuesday night, [NYCDOE announced it would re-distribute money to some schools](#) that could not afford enough teachers. CPE1 was given enough funding for one more teacher, and a few hours later, Grace officially transferred. Public schools still face budget issues.

Legal Challenges to School Budgets

At 9:30 today, [public school families are rallying in Foley Square](#) before marching to the New York State Supreme Court on Centre Street. Today, [the court will rule on a lawsuit](#) challenging hundreds of millions in cuts to school budgets.

I wrote before that the current cuts go beyond citywide enrollment loss. CPE1 actually has *more* students than last year, but even with this week's extra money, our budget is about ten percent smaller than last year.

But this isn't just about our school, in this one year.

Chancellor Banks has said that our city must “focus on reversing enrollment declines by winning back families.” We won't win back families by laying off guidance counselors and art teachers. Kids who have been hurt by the pandemic won't 'get over it' in a city with larger class sizes and fewer music classes. We need to maintain the programming and support New York City children deserve.

We would not be introducing a new teacher without thousands of New Yorkers advocating for schools. I'm grateful for that advocacy, and hope we keep investing in New York City's public schools.

Gabriel