Dear Parents,

As our Superintendent Dr. Almeida’s letter explains, we are in the process of piloting content specialists in core subject areas for grades 3 through 5 in our district.  Content specialists are teachers who focus on a particular subject or two and receive in-depth professional development. The content specialist model requires students to change teachers for subjects to be taught by highly trained content experts (ELA, Social Studies, Math and Science). Progress will be monitored and the model may be revised slightly as we move forward.

At Tiogue, we are piloting the content specialist model at grade levels 3, 4, and 5. Each team has worked with me and our ULSS teachers on a schedule for all of our teachers and students. This has been and will continue to be a highly collaborative model in terms of planning, grading, and communication at each grade level. All of our teachers at these grade levels are highly qualified and are committed to piloting this content specialist model with fidelity and effort. Our teachers are excited about the possibilities not only for our students but for themselves to be the best educators they can be.

There are many advantages as Dr. Almeida has described, but we hope the ultimate advantage will be that our students will learn at the highest levels in all content areas, by teachers who are content specialists and are perfecting their teaching expertise. I commend our teachers’ willingness and openness to pilot this model this year. Our students’ success is always at the forefront of any decisions we make as a school and district. As we approach conferences in November you will meet with your child’s homeroom teacher and certainly may request a separate conference with their other grade level teachers.

As noted above, our teachers at each grade level have worked on a schedule and we are attaching the same to this letter. This initiative will begin officially on October 20, 2014. I will also be happy to share our progress at PTA meetings as we move forward this school year. Please know that we will be monitoring this pilot as we recognize both successes and challenges. We may be asking you and your children to participate in surveys as we go along to get your feedback regarding this model. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s teachers if you have any further questions.

Your Partner in Education,

Louise K. Seitsinger

Principal

Grade 3 Team: