



Stanhope Public School District

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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Alicia Finklea-DiCataldo
Principal

Steven T. Hagemann
Superintendent

Dr. Steven E. McHugh, Sr.
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

August 1, 2019

Dear Valley Road School Students and Families,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Valley Road School, it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you back for the 2019-2020 school year! We have been working diligently this summer to ensure that the school year is a success, and are very excited to see our students as they return refreshed and well rested for the first day of school on Thursday, September 5th at 7:45 a.m. Student's teacher assignments can be found on the Genesis Portal, prior to the first day.

Upon student's(s') arrival, our staff will be present in both the hallways and parking lots to ensure that every Valley Road student gets to where they need to be for a successful start to our school year. Expect to receive student(s') daily schedules and several important letters and forms coming home within the first few days of school. Free and reduced lunch, medical forms, an updated student-parent handbook and code of conduct, and individual classroom information/log-in(s) for both students and families will be distributed. Please help us keep our records up to date by filling forms out completely and returning them in a timely fashion.

At Valley Road School our "*Chargers Take Charge*" by having *VALUES*, showing *RESPECT* to one another and self, and dedicating time to *SERVICE* by being active citizens in our community. During the 2019-2020 school year we will continue to expand on this with our school-wide positive behavioral intervention system (PBIS). The program has proven to positively encourage student character choice, self-awareness, management and responsible decision making during everyday interactions within the school setting. We look forward to hosting a few special guests throughout the year in support of our social-emotional learning and mindfulness initiatives, as well as continuing in our monthly fun Friday events and raffles.

In accordance to NJDOE regulation, we are eager to announce the introduction of Response to Intervention services (RtI) that will further support our students' academic needs. This objective aligns directly with the current trajectory of our district-wide goals and initiatives, pairing well with the use of standards based reporting and positive behavioral intervention. The service is a tiered framework which will provide prompt, targeted remediation services to ensure that all of our students receive specific instruction as per their individualized needs. We look forward to employing this framework as it coincides with data-driven practices that support successful instruction and strategies.

The NJDOE has also updated recess requirements. All students in grades K-5 must engage in twenty minutes of recess each day (weather permitting). Students in grades K-5 may only be withheld from the daily recess requirement for medical or code of conduct violations. This is limited to two code of conduct violations per week. During this time, restorative practice will be incorporated to support social-emotional

wellness and behavioral needs of students. Additionally, we will be rolling out our new financial literacy curriculum. The curriculum follows the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and will support economic education and responsible decision making for our students at the middle school level.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher, the main office or myself with any questions and/or concerns. Again, a heartfelt and energetically charged welcome back to what is sure to be an amazing 2019-2020 school year!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia L. Finklea-DiCataldo', written in a cursive style.

Alicia L. Finklea-DiCataldo
Principal

#WeAreVRS #ChargersTakeCharge