



January

E-Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

Message from the Superintendent

Dear River Vale Education Community:

Welcome back from the Winter Recess. We look forward to the months ahead and to working with you to provide the best possible experience for our students during this most challenging time.

In the weeks ahead, we will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on our schools and in our region. While our region continues to be classified as *High* according to the COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI), our schools have been impacted minimally. Most of our remote-only days have been the result of needing more time to complete contact tracing. I believe that our prudent approach has yielded the results we had hoped--few cases and limited spread. By all accounts, the next two weeks will determine how we will proceed with in-person instruction. We will continue to monitor closely this situation and to work collaboratively with our health officials. I am hopeful that if our numbers remain low we can begin to bring more students back for in-person instruction.



Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.

The cold weather season can be unpredictable regarding school closings. This year the State is allowing districts to use remote-only instruction on days that would have traditionally been "snow days." While I know there are many opinions regarding this matter, it helps to have remote-only days as River Vale has not included "snow days" in its calendar in recent years. It's a good opportunity for students to stay connected with school work during the morning session, while gaining credit for a school day--enabling an earlier release to the end of school in June.

In the interim, please see below for a COVID-19 update and some exciting news on curriculum.

Healthy, Happy 2021!
Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Update

Each Friday by 4:00 pm, the district will publish a COVID-19 data update that can be accessed via the [Restart Plan](#) icon on the district website. The information will detail new COVID-19 cases for the prior week as well as the total number of positive cases confirmed since September 1, 2020 for each school in the district and the administrative building. Below is an example of the COVID-19 data update as of Friday, January 1.

River Vale Public Schools COVID-19 Data Update

At the end of the week of 12.28.2020 - 1.1.2021

*Will be updated weekly by 4:00PM on Friday

| |  Holdrum Middle School Grades 6-8 |  Roberge Elementary School Grades K-5 |  Woodside Elementary School Grades Pre-K - 5 |  Administrative Building | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|----------|---|---|----------|
| NEW CASES | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff/Students New Covid This Week</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table> | Staff/Students New Covid This Week | 1 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff/Students New Covid This Week</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table> | Staff/Students New Covid This Week | 0 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff/Students New Covid This Week</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table> | Staff/Students New Covid This Week | 0 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff New Covid This Week</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table> | Staff New Covid This Week | 0 |
| Staff/Students New Covid This Week | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff/Students New Covid This Week | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff/Students New Covid This Week | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff New Covid This Week | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL CASES | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> </table> | Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 8 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table> | Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 0 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> </table> | Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 6 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table> | Staff Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 1 |
| Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff/Students Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff Total Confirmed Positive Cases Since 9/1/2020 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Notes: (1) The numbers calculated reference students receiving in-person instruction only.
 (2) Decisions to close schools are based on multiple factors including school and community spread, and quarantine restrictions that impede the district's ability to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment.



The River Vale School District, in conjunction with our regional counterparts, has been working to complete all necessary curricular updates as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education. New curriculum for the following content areas will be available to begin the 2021-2022 school year: Science, Career Readiness, Visual and Performing Arts, and World Language. Social Studies, Physical Education and Health, and Computer Science standards will be implemented in September 2022. Our Curriculum Department will be preparing professional development opportunities to all necessary staff members, beginning in January 2021.

Additionally, on January 18th, staff will be trained on Newsela, an online resource supporting our curriculum in various content areas, such as science, social studies, language arts, social and emotional learning, and LGBTQ+. Newsela offers a plethora of leveled reading materials aligned to all New Jersey Learning Standards. Additionally, text sets are available to support thematic units of study, coupled with the ability for teachers to easily track progress and provide targeted instruction. Newsela offers engaging content that is easily accessible and updated daily with content to support instruction. Articles of the same content are offered in multiple reading levels to provide individualized instruction. Newsela encourages student engagement as it includes integrated assessments into all texts. Teachers are able to use this program during whole class, small group, and individual instructional settings.

The River Vale School District has recently created a diversity committee, comprised of parents, Board of Education Trustees, members of the PTA, teachers, and members of the administrative team. The goal of this committee is to complete an assessment of practices and curriculum related to diversity issues involving social justice and equity, as well as contributions from members of the LGBTQ+ community. It is our goal to continue to create curricula that is reflective and promotes culturally responsive teaching. We are currently researching speakers and platforms that will help our team best execute these pertinent discussions, including the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice. This committee will work directly with our RULER implementation team to promote empathy and acceptance of all members in our community.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who reside in River Vale and will be five years of age on or before October 1, 2021 are eligible to be registered for kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school-year.



Registration opened on January 1, 2020. Registration forms and additional information are available on the district website.

Please note that students will not be officially enrolled until registration is completed at a scheduled

JANUARY 2021

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | | 1/1 No School |
| 1/4 Cohort A | 1/5 Cohort A | 1/6 Cohort A | 1/7 Cohort B | 1/8 Cohort B |
| 1/11 Cohort A | 1/12 Cohort A | 1/13 Cohort B | 1/14 Cohort B | 1/15 Cohort B |
| 1/18 No School Staff PD Day | 1/19 Cohort A | 1/20 Cohort A | 1/21 Cohort B | 1/22 Cohort B |
| 1/25 Cohort A | 1/26 Cohort A | 1/27 Cohort B | 1/28 Cohort B | 1/29 Cohort B |

PTA Updates

We hope everyone enjoyed their winter recess. Don't forget to "like" the River Vale PTA Facebook page to stay updated on current events. Please visit the PTA website for membership, upcoming events and general information, [click here](#).

Spiritwear, choose your child's school or pick River Vale swag.

- Holdrum: <https://thatsabuy.com/school-team.../river-vale/holdrum/>
- Roberge: <https://thatsabuy.com/school-team.../river-vale/roberge/>
- Woodside: <https://thatsabuy.com/school-team.../river-vale/woodside/>
- RV: <https://thatsabuy.com/school.../river-vale/rv-spirit-wear/>



[RVPTA](#)



Click the link to check our [Go Green Folder](#) on the District website!

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