



WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL!

E-Newsletter

September 2020

Message from the Superintendent

Dear River Vale Education Community Member:

Welcome to the start of a new school year!

Our teachers, administrators and staff have been preparing for this unusual start over the last several months. As I toured the schools last week, various accommodations were evident, including socially-distant seating arrangements, Plexiglas dividers where appropriate, stand-alone thermometer check points, hand-sanitizing stations and many other items to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Our students are back and eager to learn whether it be using our hybrid model or the remote-only option. Approximately, 76% of our students are enrolled in the hybrid model, while 24% of our students are participating in remote-only learning.

I encourage you to continue to visit the [Restart Plan](#) section of our website for our most up-to-date information, including the Restart and Recovery Plan, student statement of assurance, parent resources, mental health guidance, technology assistance and frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Looking forward to a productive school year ahead.

Sincerely,
Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools



Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.

NJ Schools Rank Number One

New Jersey schools were number one in a recent ranking of the nation's public schools. The rankings examined 39 data points to give states a letter grade as well as a numerical score. NJ schools earned high marks for both student achievement and how much the state spends to fund its education system. The ranking used data from 2017-2019. A complete list of the rankings can be found at [Education Week](#).



COVID-19 Rapid Test:

COVID-19 testing is available to school families. If a student is attending in-person

instruction (or someone living in the same household as a student) has COVID symptoms or significant COVID exposure, parent are advised to call:



PM Pediatrics
160 Rt. 17 North, Paramus
201-262-5432

Wellness Warmline Services

RIVER VALE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFIDENTIAL WARMLINE FOR TEACHERS, STAFF AND FAMILIES

201-688-7098

Stressed about going back to school?
West Bergen can help. This school year will be like no other.
Feelings of stress and anxiety about what to expect are real
and can be overwhelming.

Call our Warmline for free and confidential support,
Monday through Friday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Calls are initially received by a West Bergen access clinician,
then returned by a trained, West Bergen licensed therapist
during a time that is most convenient for you,
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.



Curriculum Corner

The River Vale Public School District is excited to announce, we will be piloting our new math program, Big Ideas, in grades K-8. Big Ideas will be fully implemented during the 2021-22 school year, however we will be using its digital database this school year to become better acclimated with all features and the plethora of resources it has to offer. Big Ideas was developed with the Standards for Mathematical Practice as its foundation and clearly balances procedural fluency with conceptual understanding, which directly aligns to our regionally developed curriculum. This program strongly emphasizes problem solving skills, which allows students ample time to become comfortable with the process of problem solving and apply their understanding to real life situations. Big Ideas offers a balance of direct instruction and discovery by beginning each lesson



with inquiry-based activities to encourage abstract thinking. This program also completely aligns to our district's philosophy of a balanced approach to instruction and incorporates research-based supports to motivate, engage, and challenge students in the mathematical setting.

The River Vale Public School District is also extremely excited to partner with literacy consultant, Shelly Klein. She has been a successful educator for the last 29 years. Her experience ranges from classroom teacher and school administrator to staff developer and literacy consultant. Ms. Klein has lectured at the college level and has authored district-wide curricula. She has provided professional development to hundreds of schools and has worked for many years utilizing the ongoing professional learning model for literacy development and change. Additionally, she has presented single and multi-day workshops in public, private, independent, parochial and charter schools both locally and on a national level. Ms. Klein holds a Master's Degree in Education and Reading, is a certified Reading Specialist, and former New Jersey Governor Teacher of the Year. She feels most inspired when helping teachers grow new teaching practices and even more excited when teachers see the spark ignite in their students.

[PTA Update](#)

The River Vale PTA has been working to put some events and fundraisers together. Please go to [Memberhub](#) to become a member and update your personal information. Join hubs that interest you!!! The PTA is introducing three new committees: *Diversity and Inclusion Committee*, chaired by Wendy Diaz and Rachelle Martin; *Fundraising Committee*, working on new and profitable fundraising ideas; and the *Reflections Committee*, which will be working on a National PTA initiative giving students the ability to showcase their artistic abilities through five different platforms. We are looking for volunteers to help support these initiatives!!

Please check out our new webpage at [River Vale PTA website](#). Lunch will be offered for either pick up or delivery go to [Boonli](#) to check out the options. Reach out to Rivervaleptalunch@gmail.com.

Don't forget to "like" the River Vale PTA Facebook page to stay updated on current events. Please view the PTA upcoming events page, [click here](#).



[RV PTA](#)



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

Join Our Mailing List!