



RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2023-2024

Highlights

Superintendent's Message.....school safety
Inside Our Schools.....first week of school
Strong Schools Status.....construction updates
Calendar Reminders.....important calendar reminders
PTA.....new PTA website

**COMMITTED
TO EXCELLENCE.**

Dear School Community,

We are fortunate to live in *one of the safest towns in New Jersey*. Of course, that doesn't insulate us from the need to regularly evaluate our school security protocols. We put just as much effort into protecting our students as we do into educating them.

River Vale Board of Education members often discuss school safety, and some of those conversations have centered on armed security guards. An ad-hoc security committee of Board members and administrators spent more than a year researching school safety data and reviewing existing protocols. The committee also explored the idea of hiring armed security guards.

Ultimately, the Board approved a question for the community to vote on whether to hire armed security guards. Along with voting for Board of Education candidates on Nov. 7, you will be asked whether the district should spend \$230,000 for armed security guards at each school. While the tax impact would be minimal, the cost would become part of the annual budget.

Board members were hesitant to cut instructional programming to add the cost of armed security guards to the regular budget. The other budget option was to increase the tax levy beyond the state-mandated 2 percent cap, which requires voter approval.

Our district already implements security precautions beyond state mandates, including routine drills and ongoing training in best practices.

We also appreciate our strong relationship with the River Vale Police Department. RVPD officers have a visible presence in our buildings and walk through our schools several times a day. Officers also run the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) and Junior Police Academy programs in our schools.

Our partnership with local law enforcement helps shape our security plans. Administrators have annual meetings with the RVPD, and attend safety and security training run by state and county law enforcement agencies.

While there is no single solution, armed security guards in each school could be an additional tactic in the district's extensive security plan.

School security involves a matrix of tools and strategies, and requires regular review. We will continue to make it a priority as our community makes its decision on Nov.7.

Sincerely,
Melissa Signore
Superintendent of Schools

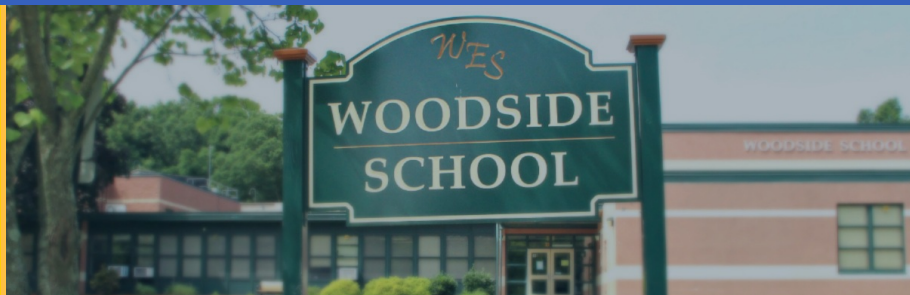


INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

In our first month back to school, we've been witness to some incredible moments of learning. Our middle school students exemplify the spirit of collaboration as they work on their Chromebooks and pool their knowledge together. Our elementary students team up to work seamlessly on engaging projects. Our students are participating in lively discussions, sharing their insights and discoveries. It's evident that the enthusiasm for learning is thriving in our school community. As we celebrate the completion of our first month, we look forward to many more months of exploration, collaboration, and success ahead.



STRONG SCHOOLS STATUS



Our focus will soon turn to Woodside as district-wide building improvements continue. We are now in the planning phase for referendum projects at the school. Some work will start after the new year, but the majority of interior renovations will take place over the summer. We will keep the community updated as the project progresses.

See rivervalchools.com/projects for project details and videos.



DATES TO REMEMBER



October 9

SCHOOLS CLOSED/Staff Development

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JOB OPENINGS

Employment opportunities in the River Vale Public School District are updated and available to view on the district website. [CLICK HERE](#)



DISTRICT PTA UPDATE

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the NEW River Vale PTA Website for membership and updated PTA information.

Don't forget to like and follow the [River Vale PTA Facebook](#) page for updates.



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ELEMENTARY**

**WOODSIDE
ELEMENTARY**



**HOLDRUM
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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