



## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the new school year! We got off to a great start on September 5th and continue to enjoy positive energy in all our schools.

As is the case each year, the effort of our administrators and the cadre of 12 month staff have provided a strong start for our students. From teachers working on curricula or attending professional development to the hiring of new staff members, oversight of several facility projects and technology improvements, this has been a very busy summer!

Thanks to all, we are off to a great start to the 2019-2020 school year. You can look forward to my monthly newsletters throughout the upcoming months on the happenings in our schools.

Looking forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events and to a productive school year ahead.



Frank Alvarez,  
Ed.D.

## NJ Schools Rank Number One in Nation in Latest Education Week Report

### Card

Education Week gave New Jersey excellent grades for its commitment to funding public schools, as well as dedication to improving achievement in impoverished neighborhoods and pre-school education. The state ranked high in overall K-12 achievement, placing second only to Massachusetts. New Jersey students consistently register high levels of achievement when measured through other factors, such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Click [here](#) for the article.



### Curriculum Corner

The 2019-2020 school-year welcomes the implementation of our new K-2 phonics program, *Phonics First*. *Phonics First* is a nationally accredited, systematic, and multi-sensory program that allows students to better understand the structure of language. It is accredited at the highest tier by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and the International Multi-sensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC). Listening, reading, writing, and speaking are infused, using a multi-sensory approach, to enhance student memory and learning. Multi-sensory approaches allow for all learners, visual, auditory and kinesthetic to be successful.

*Phonics First* uses research-based learning strategies to teach students the process of decoding and encoding. For struggling readers, Orton Gillingham's 7 Principles of Instruction are incorporated throughout all aspects of the program. We are excited to utilize the strategies highlighted in *Phonics First* and for our students to continue to build on foundational skills necessary to be successful readers and writers.

Additionally, Holdrum Middle School will be implementing two new Grade 8 electives: *Innovation through Aviation* and *A Revolution of Personal Liberty: Your Rights as a US Citizen*.

*Innovation through Aviation*, focuses on the history of flight while allowing our students to engage in real-world experiences using project-based learning applications in aviation. This course will focus on flight while infusing interdisciplinary connections such as geometry, algebra, physics, meteorology, geography, and topography. **We would like to thank the River Vale Educational Fund for its generous donation of our three *Edustation: Pro-flight Simulators* to support our efforts in this area.**

Our civics course, *A Revolution of Personal Liberty: Your Rights as a US Citizen*, will focus on the structure of the US Constitution and basic rights granted to US citizens through the Bill of Rights. This course will allow students to make connections with the community and prepare them to be informed voters and active citizens.



## [Survey Results: What we learned.....](#)

The parent survey results are in. Overall, our schools did very well as all areas were rated highly at all schools. Elementary and middle school parents were in agreement with the following:

- *My child likes going to school.*
- *I feel welcomed in my child's school despite necessary security procedures.*
- *My child is safe in school.*
- *My child's school is clean and well-maintained.*
- *Teachers are responsive to my questions and concerns.*



At the elementary level, parents also agreed that *the school expects quality work from their child(ren)*.

In addition to the items listed above, middle school parents expressed satisfaction with the *overall quality of education and their child(ren)'s academic progress*. Parents noted appreciation for *teachers' availability before or after school to provide extra help to students as needed*. Parents also *feel well informed about school programs/services/activities*.

Parents made several suggestions and three themes emerged:

*wellness, particularly stress in young children; respect for all; and open communication.* We will be addressing these issues in the upcoming school year.

The parent survey is a good vehicle for assessing our customer satisfaction level. Your input inspires us to grow our practice in service to our students.

## [Back-to-School Night](#)

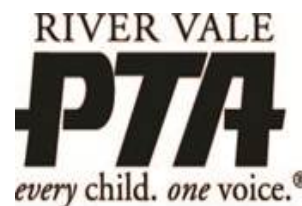
Parents of children enrolled at Roberge or Woodside School can learn about what's in store for elementary students this year by attending Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Sept. 19th. Times for grade levels and additional information on the night's schedule will be provided by your school principal.



On September 25th, Middle School parents will be able to experience their son/daughter's schedule with abbreviated class periods. Teachers will discuss course content and expectations. Look for information from the Holdrum principal in the near future.

## [PTA News](#)

If you are interested in volunteering to serve lunch, you do not need to commit to coming every week. Any day(s) you can give us, we will take. What does it mean to serve lunch?



At Roberge and Woodside, the commitment is from 11:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Holdrum lunch volunteers serve during their child's lunch period and the commitment is 20-30 minutes. The Holdrum schedule is as follows:

6th grade- 10:30 a.m. -10:55 a.m.  
7th grade- 11:20 a.m. -11:55 a.m.  
8th grade- 12:10 p.m. -12:40 p.m.

Click [here](#) to learn how to sign up as a volunteer with the PTA Lunch Program.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to email [tgreco625@gmail.com](mailto:tgreco625@gmail.com) to discuss joining the team of lunch volunteers.

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

Join Our Mailing List!