



## Valley View Middle School

50 Valley View Road Watchung, NJ 07069

908-755-4422 [www.watchungschools.com](http://www.watchungschools.com)

August 26, 2020

Dear Valley View Middle School Families,

Summer greetings! It is my sincere hope that you will quickly feel at home and become involved in many of the wonderful opportunities that our school has to offer.

The start of the school year will be here before you know it. Our staff is busily preparing for the students' return, whether in person or remote! We have been working hard all summer to plan for a safe opening of school and to implement best practices to mitigate the risks associated with Covid-19. Our classrooms have been modified to increase social distancing, signage has been installed throughout the building to guide students, and our instructional strategies have been modified. A stronger emphasis will be placed on social-emotional learning as we implement the Second Step program in all of our 5-8 classrooms.

Please be sure to visit our **school website** as it contains important resources for our families. We are constantly updating information as we progress through the school year. For now, the following tidbits will assist you for the opening of school:

- **On Friday, August 21**, you should have received correspondence containing your username and temporary password to log into Genesis, our new student information system. Once logged in, you are required to update your password, fill out mandatory forms, and update your contact information. After completing these steps, you will be able to view your child's homeroom assignment. Genesis is the system where you may view your child's schedule, grades, and attendance.
- Homeroom teachers will be sending out an email to students (using student school Gmails) on **September 3rd** inviting students to join their **Homeroom Google classroom**.

Student Gmails are configured as:

**First name first letter of last name last two digits of graduation**

**year**@student.watchungschools.us For example: For student Karin Kidd who is graduating 8<sup>th</sup>-grade in 2021, the email would be **karink21**@student.watchungschools.us

- **Student schedules** will be available to view in Genesis on **September 3rd**.
- The **first day of school** for students is **September 8th**. The school day will begin promptly at 8:15 am. Your child will report to his/her homeroom assignment on the first day of school either in-person or virtually. There, they will receive more information about school procedures.
- All students will follow the **Early Dismissal schedule** posted on our school website.
- Please note that there is not an all-remote day (usually Wednesdays) scheduled for the **first week of school** due to Labor Day. Cohort 1 (Blue) will report to school in-person on Tuesday & Wednesday; Cohort 2 (White) will report to school in-person on Thursday & Friday. When not in-school, students will attend their classes during the scheduled time remotely.

- The section of Valley View Road in front of the school will be open in the morning for **student drop off**. Vehicles may not be left unattended in this area and must exit the area as soon as passengers leave the vehicle. Cars will not be permitted in the school parking lot during drop off or pick up times.
- During the **first week of school**, all students will learn the basics on how to safely navigate and organize their school work in a hybrid/distance learning environment, utilize the various technology platforms, and engage in conversation and activities regarding their social-emotional and on-line health. Utilizing the **student handbooks**, teachers will review the building layout, school expectations, and daily procedures.
- Our **Virtual Back-to-School Nights** are scheduled for on **Wednesday, September 16th** (Grades 5 & 6) & **Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** (Grades 7 & 8) at 7 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to travel through your child's distance learning daily schedule and meet his/her teachers. More detailed information will follow.
- If you haven't started your **summer reading** yet, now is the time. All students are required to complete an accompanying Language Arts assignment. Please see our website for more detailed information.
- At this time, the only **school supplies** students are to bring to school on in-person days are a mask, personal-sized hand sanitizer, 5-subject spiral notebook, a writing utensil, and a district-issued Chromebook (in an appropriately sized bag). Lockers will not be used; students will keep their possessions with them in their classroom.
- Students should wear appropriate clothing and footwear to school on days that they are scheduled for in-person **Physical Education classes**. Lockers and locker rooms will not be utilized.
- When **visiting our school** during the school year, please enter the building and report directly to the main office where a secretary will assist you. Visitors must state their name and purpose after ringing the doorbell to gain entry, and may be asked to show a picture ID upon entering the school.
  - If you have a **scheduled meeting**, you must sign in and receive a visitor's pass.
  - If you are **dropping your child off late**, please email the MS Attendance Secretary at [kdifranco@watchungschools.us](mailto:kdifranco@watchungschools.us) or have your child bring a written note. Your child must ring the doorbell to gain entry and state that he or she is arriving late (you do not need to accompany your child). Your child will then be able to proceed into the Main Office to sign in and receive a pass.
  - If you are **picking your child up early**, please email the MS Attendance Secretary at [kdifranco@watchungschools.us](mailto:kdifranco@watchungschools.us) or notify the office via Genesis *at the beginning of the day*. Your child will only be released to you or an adult listed as an Emergency Contact. Please enter the building to sign him/her out.
  - Due to safety concerns, we ask that you only bring **emergency items** to school. For any **student items** that must be **dropped off**, there is a drop-off cart located in the school entrance. Please notify the main office staff if you need to drop something off. The main office staff will assist in ensuring that your child receives the items but cannot be held responsible for the items or the timeliness of their receipt.

Partnering with families will be crucial this year as we face many obstacles due to the global pandemic. We appreciate your support and encourage you to work with your children at home to practice safety protocols such as wearing a mask and handwashing.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact our main office if you have any questions. On behalf of the entire Valley View staff, we wish you and your family the best for the remainder of the summer.

All my best,