



ROUND VALLEY SCHOOL

123 Cokesbury Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Phone: 908.236.6341 Fax: 908-730-7744

www.ctsdnj.org

Principal, Mary Postma

Soaring to New Heights

August 2019

Dear RVS Families,

I hope your summer has been relaxing and enjoyable! The beginning of the school year is quickly approaching and we are very excited to begin a new year of learning. The entire RVS staff and I are looking forward to meeting our new students and seeing our returning students once again. We have been busy preparing the school for the new year. Schedules are made, class lists are complete, and the hallways and classrooms all sparkle! We are especially excited for you to see our new flooring in the Grade 3, Health and Art classrooms.

We look forward to you visiting us on August 29. More details on this visitation and other important notes are listed below. You will also find an "Information at a Glance" document providing important contact and procedural information along with an automatic dismissal form link attached to this summer packet.

Theme:

Our school-wide theme this year continues to be, "RVS - Soaring to New Heights. Our goal is to help students develop academically, socially and emotionally throughout their time at Round Valley.

School Visitation: Visitation is scheduled for Thursday, August 29 between 12:30 and 1:30 pm. This visitation time will give you an opportunity to take a walk through the building, visit new classrooms and say a quick hello to teachers.

Drop-Off:

Morning arrivals start at 8:30 am. When dropping off students, please use the front parking lot of the school. Staff members will be available beginning at 8:30 am to ensure students' safety. For the safety of our students and parents who are crossing the lot, cars must yield to pedestrians. Please help us keep everyone safe by remaining in the car line. **DO NOT** pull around the other cars waiting in line, even if your child has exited your car. If you need to get out of the car, please park in the front lot and utilize the designated walkways and sidewalk.

Important Pick-Up and Dismissal Information:

*On September 3 we will begin automatic dismissal, as indicated on this Google form: [Automatic Dismissal Form](#)
Please complete this form prior to September 3 at 9:00 am, at which time responses will no longer be collected.*

Please use this form to indicate regularly occurring pick up days or Work Family days, thus eliminating the need to write a note each day. **The information on this form will take effect on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.**

Dismissal begins at 3:15 pm. When picking up students please use the SIDE LOT. Your child will be waiting for you under the supervision of staff members. A staff member will escort your child to your car. If your child is not waiting when you arrive, you may be asked to drive around the circle and rejoin the line.

If you need to pick up your child earlier than dismissal time for an unavoidable reason, please do so BEFORE 2:45 pm and pick up your child from the main office. Please be sure to send all changes in normal dismissal routines in writing to the office first thing in the morning. **Please do not email teachers with dismissal changes.** For safety reasons, we are unable to accept dismissal changes over the phone.

Communication: In the event of an emergency school closing or unexpected situation, parents will be notified via phone and email through the Clinton Township School District (CTSD) alert system. In addition, each week a newsletter will be sent to RVS families with upcoming events and important school/district news. Valuable information is shared on the CTSD website at www.ctsdnj.org. Visit Round Valley's website pages for information specific to RVS.

Parent Portal: Is part of the district's PowerSchool student information system. Parent Portal allows parents/guardians to view their child's grades and attendance, submit updated contact information, and get in touch with teachers via email. To access the portal, use the following link: <https://ctsd.powerschool.com/public>

Please note that if you have not previously setup your guardian account, you will need the linking codes (Access ID and Access Password) unique to each student to link pupils to your login. These codes are sent out early in the school year. If you have not received your access code/information or are having difficulty accessing the site, please email: parenthelp@ctsdnj.org. More detailed instructions for using the Parent Portal may be found on our Parent Portal web page using the following link: http://ctsdnj.org/resources/parent_resources/parent_portal

Bus Information: You should be receiving information regarding your child's bus route. If you did not, please contact the transportation office. RVS buses are numbered R1 - R10. Please refer to the bus number when calling with any bus issues.

If you have questions related to transportation, please first email Mrs. Carmella Shaw at transportation@ctsdnj.org. The transportation phone number is 908-236-7235: press 9, then ext 521.

- The drivers WILL NOT release children in Grade 3 at their bus stop unless a parent/guardian is present or a waiver is signed (attached).
- Students are not permitted to ride a different bus than assigned.
- Students are permitted to get off their own bus at a different stop, if we have a written note from both the sending and receiving parent/guardian. A bus pass will be delivered to students in their homeroom.

Attendance: One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing their academic success. Our school day begins at 8:50 am. At 8:35 am students begin to go to their classrooms and get ready for the school day.

Tardiness: Students who arrive to class after 8:50 a.m. are considered tardy. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes and lose valuable instructional time. Tardiness disrupts the attention of the teacher and the learning of fellow students. Please keep these thoughts in mind when bringing your child to school late. We know there are times when tardiness cannot be avoided due to unexpected situations. Planning for an 8:30 a.m. arrival may help alleviate some of these stressful situations.

New RVS Staff:

Please join us in welcoming faculty and staff members who are joining RVS this year:

Grade 4 General Education: Megan McGregor
Physical Education & Health Teacher: Kelly Gallagher
School Nurse: Ann Teitelbaum
Health Office Aide: Mary Goodwin
STEM: Laura Lucchetto (beginning Fall, 2019)
Guidance: Alex Ruttenberg
Literacy Support: Maureen Zappulla
Grade 4 ICS: Rita Russomano
Grade 4 ICS: Caroline Mann
Student Teacher: Robert Lovering
Custodian: Nick Lombardo
Custodian: Robert Lovering

Instructional Models:

5th Grade will be utilizing the shared instruction model of teaching, which is considered to be a "best practice" in education. This model enables students to learn from a small team of teachers who are experts in the subjects they teach. One of your child's teachers will teach English Language Arts, while the other teacher will teach Math, Science and

Social Studies (teacher names specified in Powerschool). This is a developmentally appropriate progression to the middle-school model at CTMS.

4th Grade students will remain with their homeroom for ELA and Math, but will switch classes for Science and Social Studies (teacher names specified in Powerschool).

Agendas & Take Home Folders:

All students will be supplied with a planning agenda and take home folder to help organize homework and correspondence.

Unified Arts:

Students will be offered a rich program that includes Art, Health, Music, STEM, Spanish, Health and Physical Education. Students in 3rd grade will rotate through specials on a 4 day cycle. Students in 4th and 5th grade will rotate through PE and Spanish throughout the year and Art, Health, Music and STEM on a marking period cycle, with opportunities for involvement in the same areas during extensions throughout the year. More info will be sent home early in the school year outlining the opportunities.

Lunch and Recess:

Recess will occur prior to lunch each day. On early dismissal days, lunch is not served. You may want to send in a larger than usual snack on these days.

Lost and Found:

We end up donating dozens of clothing items each year. Please label all outerwear so it can be returned if left behind.

Mark Your Calendars

August 29	School Visitation Day CTMS: 11:30-12:30 pm RVS: 12:30-1:30 pm PMG: 2:00-3:00 pm SRS: 12:00-12:30 pm
September 2	Labor Day- School Closed
September 3	First Day for Students!
September 10	RVS Back to School Night (times to follow)
September 13	PTA Welcome Pizza Night @ RVS, 5:30-7:00 pm
September 13	Spirit Day: Crazy Hair Day!
September 23	School Photo Day
September 30	BOE Meeting @ CTMS, 7:30 pm




If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or call us. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year. Please be sure to enjoy what is left of your summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Mary Postma, Principal

RVS School Info-at-a-Glance

2019-2020

<p><u>Contacting Us</u></p> <p>Main office phone number: 908.236.6341</p> <p>Main office fax number: 908.236.2847</p> <p>District Website: www.ctsdnj.org</p> <p>All email addresses are staff members' first name initial and full last name followed by @ctsdnj.org</p>	<p><u>Our Office Staff</u></p> <p>Mrs. Annette Guenther Principal's Secretary ext. 9304</p> <p>Mrs. Cindy Christopher Secretary (AM) ~ ext. 9303</p> <p>Mrs. Melissa Shannon Secretary (PM) ~ ext. 9326</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Postma Principal ~ ext. 9304</p>	<p><u>Health and Guidance</u></p> <p><u>School Nurse</u> Ms. Ann Teitelbaum Mrs. Lisa Siefert 908.236.6341 ext. 9305</p> <p><u>Guidance</u> Mr. Alex Ruttenberg Guidance Counselor ~ Gr. 3 & 4 ext. 9320</p> <p>Mrs. Christina Giordano Guidance Counselor ~ Gr. 4 & 5 ext. 9246</p> 	 <p>Our school mascot: EAGLE</p> <p>Our school colors: Red, Black & Gray</p> <p>School-Wide Theme: Soaring to New Heights</p>
<p><u>Mission Statement</u></p> <p><i>The Clinton Township School District, in partnership with the community, achieves excellence for each child by ensuring a meaningful and challenging educational experience in a supportive environment, developing life-long learners who are responsible and productive citizens.</i></p> 	<p><u>School Hours & Bus Info</u></p> <p>Regular Hours: 8:50-3:15 Early Dismissal: 8:50-12:50 Delayed Opening: 10:50-3:15</p> <p>Students may be dropped off beginning at 8:30.</p> <p>Students need to be picked up by 3:25.</p> <p><u>Buses</u> Please know the number of your child's bus. Numbers are R1-R10.</p> <p><u>Transportation Coordinator:</u> Carmella Shaw, 908.236.7235 ext. 9521 Please use this number for transportation concerns before 8:00 am or after 3:30 pm.</p>	<p><u>Morning Drop-Off and Parking</u></p> <p>When dropping off students, please use the front parking lot. Staff members will be available from 8:30 to ensure students' safety. Please do not drop students off before 8:30.</p> <p>For the safety of our students and parents who are crossing the parking lot, cars must yield to pedestrians.</p> <p>Please help us keep everyone safe by remaining in the car line. DO NOT pull around other cars waiting in line, even if your child has exited your car.</p> <p>If you need to get out of the car, please park in the front lot and utilize the sidewalk.</p>	<p><u>Afternoon Pick-Up and Dismissal</u></p> <p>School dismisses at 3:15. When picking up students please use the SIDE LOT. Your child will be waiting for you under the supervision of staff members. A staff member will escort your child to your car. If your child is not waiting when you arrive, you may be asked to drive around the circle and rejoin the line. All pick-ups should be completed by 3:25.</p> <p>For the safety of our students, requests for changes in dismissal should be made in writing and delivered to the homeroom teacher in the morning.</p> <p>If you need to pick your child up early, please send in a note and indicate a time before 2:45. We will add your child's name to the early pick-up list. Early pick-ups are facilitated in the main office. After 2:50, all children being picked up will be sent to the SIDE LOT for the 3:15 dismissal.</p>
<p><u>Absences</u></p> <p>If your child is absent or tardy, please call and leave a message on our early alert line at: 908.236.6341, press 1 Please share the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your name • Child's name • Reason for absence or anticipated time of arrival (for tardy students) <p>We are required to verify each absence, so if you do not leave a message on the early alert, you will receive a phone call from the office.</p>	<p><u>Notes from Home</u></p> <p>Please direct all notes to your child's homeroom teacher and always include the date, the teacher's name, and your child's name. If you go away without your children, please notify the office in writing of the name of the person who will be in charge of your child. We will not release children to anyone not on your emergency contact sheet, including grandparents and siblings unless we have written permission from parents.</p>		

Teaching Staff

Grade 3

Mr. Barton
Mr. Cosgrave
Mrs. Hill & Mrs. McRae
Mrs. Kirk
Mrs. Mooney
Mrs. Shea & Mrs. Prebor

Grade 4

Ms. Black & Ms. Mann
Mrs. Dmuchowski
Mrs. Jordan
Ms. McGregor
Ms. Murphy &
Mrs. Russomano
Mrs. Topping

Grade 5

Mr. Friedel
Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. Major & Mrs. Kilroy
Mrs. Rivers
Mrs. Rockafellow
Mrs. Rolak & Mrs. Nish

Inclusion, Resource, and Special Needs

Mrs. Ferri
Mrs. Forman
Mrs. Hoffman
Ms. Nugent
Mrs. Powell
Mrs. Yager
Mrs. Zappulla
Mrs. Zockoff

Unified Arts

Mrs. Beatrice ~ Spanish
Mrs. Correia ~ Spanish
Mrs. Desjaden ~ Enrichment
Ms. Ehlert ~ Library
Ms. Gallagher ~ PE/Health
Mr. Gugliandolo ~ Art
Mr. Hill ~ Band/Instrumental
Ms. Heuer/Lucchetto ~ STEM
Mrs. Pfenning ~ PE/Health
Ms. Porter ~ Music/Chorus
Mr. Ruge ~ PE/Health

Lunches

Hot lunches are provided each day by Maschio's Food Service. Snack choices are also available each day. The menu is posted monthly at:
<https://ctsd.nutrislice.com/menu/>

Students/families are provided a web-based account.
Lunch cost: \$2.95

Allergies

RVS has a number of students with life-threatening food allergies. In order to maintain a safe environment for everyone, all classrooms are peanut and tree nut free for snacks. Some classrooms may have additional restrictions. This restriction is only for classroom snacks. Students are permitted to bring any type of lunch to the cafeteria.



PTA Parties

Classroom celebrations are held for Halloween, Winter and Read Across America. More information will arrive home in September with celebration details.

Emergency Closings

Emergency Broadcasts will be sent via phone, text, and/or email, depending on the nature of the message. Contact information is pulled from PowerSchool, so it is very important to keep your information up to date.

Closing information can also be found on the district website and www.wfmz.com

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are celebrated at RVS in the following ways:
*Student names are announced on the PA system
*Students may share a "Birthday Bag" that consists of items that tell the story of their lives. Parents are invited to assist in this sharing activity. Our focus is on our children and their importance as part of the RVS community. We want the children to be the main attraction; we ask that you NOT send in any food or party favors as part of the celebration.

Progress Reporting

Conferences are held at the conclusion of the first marking period. At this time, progress will be documented on a conference report form. At the conclusion of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th marking periods, grades are posted in the Parent Portal of Power School. In addition to the descriptor grades, teachers write comments, specific to each child. These can be found by clicking on the dash "-" under the homeroom box for each marking period. If at any other time you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact his/her teacher.

Words of the Month

September ~ Friendship
October ~ Respect
November ~ Responsibility
December ~ Generosity
January ~ Perseverance
February ~ Kindness
March ~ Sportsmanship
April ~ Honesty
May ~ Compassion
June ~ Citizenship

Teachers nominate students to win monthly awards based on demonstrating the characteristics of the Word of the Month. Those selected receive a certificate and have their name announced during the monthly all-school meeting.

RVS - Soaring to New Heights

Our school-wide theme is "Soaring to New Heights", and will be centered around our Eagle mascot. We promote our school rules of:

*Take Care of Yourself
Take Care of Others
Take Care of our School Environment*



From time to time students have difficulty navigating these expectations as they are developing, not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. If your child is ever having difficulty that they need help with, please contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor. We will work hard to resolve conflicts, friendship issues or any other problems that may occur.

District Offices - 908.236.7235

Dr. Michele Cone, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Falkowski, Business Administrator (Interim)

Curriculum & Technology - 908.236.6341

Mrs. Joanne Hinkle, Director of Special Projects
Mrs. Jennifer Paccione, Sprv. of Inst., Data & Assessment

Special Services - 908.735.7916

Mrs. Alexa Ingram, Director of Special Services

Important Pick-up & Dismissal Information 2019-2020

Round Valley School



Please complete the Automatic Dismissal Form using this link:

[Automatic Dismissal Form](#)

The directions indicated through your completion of this form will take effect on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

If we do not receive the completed form, your child will be sent home on the bus each day, unless a daily dismissal note is sent in to indicate a change.

Please be sure to send any and all changes in dismissal routines in writing via your child's backpack, which will be forwarded to the main office first thing in the morning. Please do not email teachers regarding dismissal. If your child is or will be attending WFC, be sure to notify BOTH the school and WFC regarding any changes in dismissal. For safety reasons, we are unable to accept dismissal changes over the phone.

Always be prepared to show ID when picking up your child.

Grade 3 Bus Waiver 2019-2020

Round Valley School



Dear Parents/Guardians of Third Grade Students Only,

The district has a practice of bringing students back to the school if a parent or guardian is not at the bus stop to meet them (K-Gr. 3). To ensure the safety of students we will be continuing this practice for the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like to give consent for your child to be dropped off without an adult present, please complete the following form in its entirety. Please return the form to your child's teacher by Wednesday, September 4. We then need time to compile lists for drivers. Please continue to be present at the bus stop through Friday, September 6. This permission will go into effect on Monday, September 9, 2019. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mary Postma

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Please sign below to give permission for your child to get off at his/her assigned bus stop WITHOUT an adult present:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Please Print Your Name: _____

Bus Number: _____