



RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2025-2026

Highlights

Superintendent's Message.....welcome back
Inside Our Schools.....welcome new staff
Calendar Reminders.....important calendar reminders
Strong School Status.....construction updates?
PTA.....PTA reminders & updates

**COMMITTED
TO EXCELLENCE.**

Dear School Community,

A Fresh Start to a Promising Year

Each new school year brings with it a sense of renewal—a time filled with energy, opportunity, and the promise of growth and discovery. As our schools reopen and hallways fill once again with the voices and laughter of students and staff, we are reminded of the joy that comes from learning together in a vibrant, supportive environment.

Summer Progress and Facility Improvements

Our summer months were productive and filled with exciting developments across the district. Notably, the front entrance of Holdrum Middle School received a thoughtful redesign, offering a more welcoming and secure entryway for our students and visitors. In addition, we started the installation of new awnings at the middle school, providing both functional and aesthetic enhancements to the campus. These improvements reflect our continued investment in maintaining safe, engaging, and inspiring spaces for our students to learn and grow. The final touches to the canopies will continue throughout the school year.

Commitment to Continuous Learning and Innovation

Learning doesn't pause for summer, and neither does our dedication to improving educational outcomes for all students. As we enter this school year, we are advancing several key initiatives; some new and others that build upon successful efforts from last year. We are excited to partner with professional learning consultants to ensure the effective implementation of newly adopted mathematics standards. In literacy, we are introducing a new assessment tool, DIBELS, for students in grades K–3 to better inform instruction and monitor progress in foundational reading skills. Additionally, this year, our third graders will begin using *HD Word*, a program that builds on the strong foundation established with *Phonics First* in Grades K–2. *HD Word* continues to strengthen decoding, spelling, and word recognition skills, supporting a smooth and effective transition into more advanced reading. Alongside *HD Word*, students in Grade 3, 4, and 5 will also be using *InferCabulary*, a vocabulary program that helps students infer word meanings using engaging images and context clues. Both programs are designed to deepen vocabulary knowledge and support transfer into reading comprehension and writing across all subjects.

Our Data Driven Instructional Periods (DDI) will continue across the district, allowing educators to provide individualized instruction based on student needs.

In science, we are launching the first year of a spiraled curriculum in grade 7 at the middle school and continuing our collaborative efforts with regional partners to establish a cohesive and rigorous progression for grade 8.



Looking Ahead

With thoughtful planning, dedicated staff, and a commitment to innovation, we are poised for another successful year of teaching and learning. We have missed the joyful energy of our classrooms, the camaraderie of our staff, and the daily discoveries that unfold in every grade level. We are truly excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to all that this school year will bring.

Sincerely,
Melissa Signore
Superintendent of Schools

INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the River Vale PTA for our new blacktop stencils.

The Roberge and Woodside Elementary School blacktops have been transformed into a more vibrant, engaging and fun space for students. Our new stencils have added a wonderful element to our outdoor environment.

We are extremely appreciative of the PTA's continued dedication and support!





TO OUR NEW STAFF!

NEW STAFF HIRED FOR 2025-2026

- Bruce Fastow - *Lunch Aide*
- Laura Fernandez-Reilly - *School Nurse*
- Janelle Gratale - *ESL/BSI Teacher*
- Kristen Hedden - *Elementary Teacher*
- Alexandra Hunter - *School Library Media Specialist*
- Allison Kane - *Special Education/BSI Teacher*
- Christopher Kirkby - *Elementary Principal*
- Heather Kuehnle - *Elementary Teacher*
- Lisa McCarthy - *Special Education Teacher*
- Julieann McKeary - *Assistant Principal*
- Dena Monopoli - *Special Education Aide*
- Christina Montero - *Special Education Pre-K Aide*
- Mollie Olive - *Special Education LLD Teacher*
- Samantha Rice - *School Nurse*
- Kyree Roper - *Special Education Aide*
- Victoria Rozema - *Guidance Counselor*
- Kimberly Sandler - *Elementary Art Teacher*
- Erica Stravato - *Special Education BSI Teacher*
- Janice Sumner - *Lunch Aide*

NEW STAFF HIRED AFTER 9/1/2024

- Victoria McNamara - *Elementary Teacher*
- Jamie Miller - *Special Education Aide*
- Caitlin Pietrosanto - *Special Education Aide*
- Ryan Schmid - *Elementary PE/Health Teacher*
- Lisa Wachino - *CST Secretary*



DATES TO REMEMBER



September 1, 2025

Schools Closed / Labor Day

September 4, 2025

First Day for Students

September 18, 2025

HMS Back to School Night

September 25, 2025

RES/WES Back to School Night

RIVER VALE EDUCATIONAL FUND

Registration for the River Vale Educational Fund's A.C.E. Before and After School Program for the 2025-2026 school-year will open soon. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional information and registration forms.

Please be advised that enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis, due to the fact that there is a maximum amount of students allowed in the program each day. If a limit is met, a waiting list will be created and your child will be placed in the program in the order your forms were received.

Please contact Alyssa Pulver, Program Director, with any questions you might have at (862) 345-0477 or email director@rvdfund.org



DISTRICT PTA UPDATE



Like and follow the [River Vale PTA Facebook](#) page!



UPCOMING EVENT REMINDERS: *(Please check the PTA website for specific information)*

(CLICK HERE) to visit the River Vale PTA website for more UP-TO-DATE information.



FOLLOW US!



**ROBERGE
ELEMENTARY**

**WOODSIDE
ELEMENTARY**



**HOLDRUM
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Contact and Connect with Us!

www.rivervaleschools.com
(201)-358-4000

609 Westwood Avenue
River Vale, NJ 07675



CLICK HERE to visit the "Go Green" folder on the District website.

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