



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Debra Ostrowski
Principal
Riker Hill School

31 Blackstone Drive
Livingston, New Jersey 07039
Telephone: (973) 535-8000 ext. 8133
Fax: (844) 861-2995
E-mail: dostrowski@livingston.org
Website: www.livingston.org

August 23, 2018

Dear RHE Families:

I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer vacation thus far and are looking forward to an exciting and engaging 2018-2019 school year! Please read below to learn more about the many changes that occurred at RHE this summer.

Over the summer, our custodians and the maintenance and custodial team have been hard at work getting all of the classrooms ready for students. The building looks fantastic, and we are so grateful for their hard work! Many of our classrooms have been painted and our hallways are sparkling clean. The black top area has been resurfaced and will be freshly painted with hopscotch and foursquare stencils to provide more recess options. The lower basketball area will be resurfaced soon. Additionally, thank you to the RHE HSA for purchasing a Gaga Pit for all students to use, which should shortly arrive at our school!

Our new school nurse, Mrs. Giordano, will be available to discuss any medical needs for your child(ren) and to collect medications on Wednesday, August 29th from 9 to 10 am, and Thursday, August 30th from 1 to 2 pm.

Mindfulness and Character Education:

This year, RHE will focus on a mindfulness initiative, while also infusing a large amount of character education experiences and lessons through community meetings. Through read alouds and affiliated lessons, we will be addressing kindness through the lens of Lester Laminack's book, Bullying Hurts. Additionally, we will have a particular focus on the concept of "growth mindset." Our teachers will all be reading, The Growth Mindset Coach: A Teacher's Month-by-Month Handbook for Empowering Students to Achieve by Annie Brock and Heather Hundley in an ongoing effort to promote "The Power of Yet." We look forward to working with our students regarding this concept.

Fifth Grade Rotation Schedule:

Fifth grade students will rotate between three homeroom teachers to receive their instruction each day. Mr. Arensburg will teach science and social studies, Mrs. Corino will teach reading and writing, and Mrs. Kelly will teach mathematics, calendar math, and word study.

Lunch and Recess:

This year, we will have three separate lunch periods to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and playground/recess areas at the same time. All students will remain in the cafeteria for a full 30 minutes. In addition to reducing the number of students at recess at one time, this new lunch and recess rotation will encourage students to eat a healthy lunch, foster communication skills with their peers, in addition to providing an age appropriate recess.

Welcome to New Staff:

We have many new staff to welcome to RHE! We also have many staff members who changed roles. Please see the list below and say hello to our new staff members in the upcoming weeks!

New to Kindergarten: Mrs. Nicole Haslett

New to 1st Grade: Mrs. Giulia Melucci

Kindergarten (Leave Replacement): Mrs. Jill McLaughlin for Mrs. Melissa Rosario

2nd Grade (Leave Replacement): Miss Aubrey DeNegriz for Mrs. Erin Lurie

K-2 BSI Math: Mrs. Patricia Le Donne

Gifted and Talented: Mrs. Christine Zambrio

Occupational Therapist: Mrs. Bridget Vasto

Speech Language Therapist: Ms. Stephanie Whitney

Technology Coach: Mr. Mitch Wasserman

Teams

Kindergarten: Mrs. Bannon, Mrs. Haslett, Mrs. McLaughlin/Mrs. Rosario

First Grade: Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Melucci, Mrs. Michinard

Second Grade: Miss DeNegriz, Mrs. Lockwood, Miss Winka

Third Grade: Mrs. Frohman, Ms. Isakower, Ms. Van Dusen/Mrs. Ayars

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Carangelo, Mrs. Chorba, Mrs. Montalto

Fifth Grade: Mr. Arensburg, Mrs. Corino, Mrs. Kelly

Upcoming Events:

8/29	Kindergarten Meets Teachers (2:15 – 3:00 pm)
8/30	Meet and Greet with Mrs. Ostrowski (8:00 – 9:00 am and 11:30 am – 12:30 pm)
9/4	First Day Back
9/15	HSA Car Wash
9/25	Back to School Night
9/26	New Parent Welcome Breakfast
9/27	School Picture Day
10/3	New Family Meet and Greet
10/5	2 Hour Delayed Opening for PD

First Day Back!

Tuesday, September 4th is our first day back for students! Students will enter through the main doors. Teachers will direct students to the cafeteria or small gym for morning line up. Signs will be posted with the names of homeroom teachers. Staff will be available to assist students as they locate their new homerooms. Students will line up near their homeroom teacher's sign and will be collected by their teacher when the bell rings. Please refer to the attached Parent Information Guide regarding student drop-off each morning.

I look forward to seeing all of you during one of my Meet and Greet Sessions on August 29th!

Thank you,

Debra Ostrowski

Debra Ostrowski, Principal