

Florham Park School District

2016-2017 School Year



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Briarwood Elementary School

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Mrs. Sherri Glaab, Principal

I am Florham Park!!

Dear Families:

Can you believe we are almost at the end of the school year? We have so many great activities going on, I truly hope you are able to attend most of them.

Upcoming Events

Ridgedale will be hosting the second annual "Concert on the Lawn" this upcoming Thursday. It is a glorious event- please join us!

Don't miss Briarwood's Play "The Mixed Up Fairy Tale" on June 7th, it is sure to please.

There are many more activities and events that I'm sure you enjoy. Check out our calendar online.

I was in attendance at the Ridgedale Science Fair and I'm so proud of our students! What amazing projects! You could find anything from potato batteries, to dashboard s'mores! We had a great turnout from our families.

It is a summer for Reading!

As all of you know, we have spent a great deal of time and effort on our reading program. Our teachers have excelled in so many ways that Teacher's College is looking to highlight them! This is quite an honor.

Once you get your student's summer reading packet, you will notice an increase in rigor. We are trying to prevent the "summer slide" and we are holding your children to a higher standard. With that, we want you ALL to be involved in reading.

When you have family time and you are all reading, please send me a picture of your family engaged in this activity. Your family can be reading a book, a newspaper, a magazine, etc. These pictures will be posted to Facebook. By sending your picture, you are giving me permission to post. Pictures may be sent to: pictures@fpks.org. Modeling good reading habits for your child will create readers throughout the family. I want to invite our fabulous faculty and staff to also send pictures of them reading with their families. Check our Facebook page regularly!

Opioid Use Among Teens

As you may know, Opioid use among teenagers has increased. Mr. Shanley suggested that we coordinate with our Police Department regarding the use and abuse of Opioids locally. We will be hosting a presentation with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office on October 12, 2017 at 7PM in the Ridgedale Middle School Auditorium. Please make it a point to put this on your calendar, as it is extremely important for our youth. I'm including an article that was posted in TAP Into Chatham regarding a Cornell graduate and his battle with opioids.

The article is here: [Chatham Presentation](#).

This is something I am passionate about, as I have had two sisters who have died from their addiction to Opioids. These can be very dangerous.

DATES TO REMEMBER

6/1	Incoming 6 th Gr. Parent Orientation
6/1-2	5 th Grade Move-up Day
6/3	PTA Fun Fair
6/7	2 nd Grade Spring Drama
6/8	RMS Spring Concert
6/9	8 th Grade Dance BKL-DARE Graduation
6/12	PSD Field Day
6/13	PreK Field Day
6/13-15	RMS 8 th Grade Washington D.C. Trip
6/14	Flag Day Kindergarten Celebrates BKL End of Year Celebration
6/15	BKL Awards Ceremony
6/16	4 th Marking Period Ends RMS Picnic/Field Day
6/19	BWD/BKL Field Day
6/20	8 th Grade Pool Party
6/22	Last Day of School / Graduation-Early Dismissal Report Cards Distributed
6/26	Board of Education Meeting
6/30	RMS Report Cards Distributed

End of Year

This year is quickly coming to an end, and it has been a fabulous second year in Florham Park for me. I truly enjoy working with this amazing teaching staff, my wonderful administrators, your glorious children, and the superb families.

This year in sum,

We have:

- Rolled out a successful reader's-writer's workshop program
- Became a model district for Teacher's College of Columbia
- Brought the vision of 1:1 technology to our middle school
- Conducted Strategic Planning with the staff, community, and board
- Board meetings have become paperless
- We have developed new safety plans for our staff and students
- Developed a Leadership Cohort among our teaching staff
- Started work on a full STE(A)M program at the middle school
- Introduced an additional section of Pre-K
- Collaborated with surrounding districts to consider sharing services
- Highlighted Student and Staff achievements at our board meetings
- Overhauled our science curriculum to meet and exceed the Next Generation Science Standards
- Fostered positive relations with board, administration, and faculty
- Reinstated Field Day
- And hopefully, fingers crossed, our PARCC scores will have increased
- Conducted Superintendent's forums for the community
- Conducted Principal's forums for the community
- Hosted parent nights
- Introduced Yoga for Classrooms
- Many, many other positives items that are just too many to list

Next year, our focus will be to continue Reader's and Writer's workshop as well as put a spotlight on Math, grades 4-8. We are also turning toward a new safety program called ALICE. I'm attaching a link to a [summary of ALICE](#). You will receive more information regarding this as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Varley

Dr. Melissa Varley, Superintendent