



BACK TO SCHOOL!



WE ARE READY!

Hello Families;

We are in the final stretch of summer and working diligently to get everything ready for the children of Florham Park. On September 6th, we welcome your children in our doors for a year filled with learning and laughter.

Something to Celebrate!

For those of you who are new to the district, welcome! And for those of you who are returning, welcome back! On behalf of our entire team in Florham Park, I thank you for your trust in caring for your child, and I excitedly welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year!

Since I have been the superintendent in Florham Park, you may have noticed a few changes. I came into the district in 2015 and there has been a flurry of activity. During the 2015-2016 School Year, I worked with administration to incorporate phonics into our K-2 instruction. We also started the process of examining the Reading and Writing Workshop. Hiring an English Language Arts Supervisor was instrumental in making the transition happen. Two years ago, we implemented the Reading and Writing workshop and partnered with Teachers College at Columbia University. Our teachers have also been featured in 3 books that they've published! Our BSI program also got a makeover with the adoption of Fountas and Pinnell's Leveled Literacy Intervention. Last year, we hired a math consultant to give our math teachers more support for math instruction. We are thankful for the dedication of our teachers, the partnership with our families, and the growth of our students! With this being my fourth year together, we are not finished yet!

You may have realized that your child's personalized needs are at the heart of our instruction. This year in Math and ELA teachers will continue to learn more about understanding data and growing a repertoire of skills so that we can respond to student's individual needs. We hope that our new standard based report cards, and your parent-teacher conferences that are focused on your child as a person and their academic needs reflect this priority, and help us to communicate your child's progress and how you can best support your child at home.

This year we are proud to announce that your child's specials will be enhanced with a period of STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art & Mathematics). They will be learning coding in grades K-8. Further, in middle school this year we will be introducing a new math program called Big Ideas. As we care about your child beyond academics, we have also instituted mindfulness in our elementary schools as well as yoga for classrooms. Our students are learning how to deal with stress and anxiety as well as practice self care.

Yes- this is a lot of change. But as a result of the teamwork of our school leaders, staff, the board, and you the parents, it has resulted in significant gains in student achievement as measured by the PARCC. **By significant gains- we mean growth of more than 20 percent in some grade levels!** These gains are significant and the word is out! It is unheard of to have this type of growth in three years. The Florham Park School District is being recognized as a leader in academic achievement.

District Contacts

Board of Education Office

67 Ridgedale Avenue
Florham Park, NJ 07932
Phone: 973-822-3880
Fax: 973-822-0867

Dr. Melissa Varley
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. John Csatos, C.P.A.
*Business Administrator/
Board Secretary*

Board Of Education Members

Nick Rittrivi, *President*
Alita Thomas, *Vice President*
Yvonne Cali
Fabienne Crimi
Kristina Heinold
Linda Rozek
Charles Shanley

Ridgedale Middle School

71 Ridgedale Avenue
Phone: 973-822-3855
Fax: 973-822-7963
Mr. Peter Christ, Principal

Brooklake Elementary School

235 Brooklake Road
Phone: 973-822-3888
Fax: 973-822-1577
Dr. Steven Caponegro, Principal

Briarwood Elementary School

151 Briarwood Road
Phone: 973-822-3884
Fax: 973-822-0289
Mrs. Sherri Glaab, Principal



#FPROCKS

I invite you to join me in celebrating our wonderful team and your amazing children for making this possible! I also want to promise you that we are continuing to push ourselves to grow and be better, and we hope you will join us by supporting reading at home, ensuring your children do their homework, attending curriculum nights and joining the PTA. We need your support!

New Safety Protocol

Beginning in September, when you're visiting our schools, you will be asked for your driver's license. In return, you will be given a visitor lanyard. Once you are exiting the building, you will return the lanyard and retrieve your license. This helps us keep track of everyone who is entering and exiting our buildings. Thank you!

New Start Times for Briarwood and Brooklake

We are starting a new morning reading session for all children in the district. We have found time in the Ridgedale schedule so that we do not have to impact start times; however, we had to move the start times for Briarwood and Brooklake. Both of these schools will start right at 8:30. Students will be considered tardy at 8:31. Arriving to school on time is very important. Please try to place an emphasis on timely arrival.

Genesis

We have moved to a new student information system. Genesis is a New Jersey based company and it makes our lives much easier. We are currently in the process of getting everything transferred from Powerschool. Schedules will be released on August 28th at 11AM.

Incoming!!!

We will have some new faces this year! Please join me in welcoming them!

Briarwood:

Preschool-Stephanie Lentine

Grade K: Tara Felt

Grade 1: Megan Tighe

Grade 1: Farrah Rella

World Cultures: Julia Gross

School Psychologist: Leanne Morici

Library: Erin Norris

STEM/ART: Tracy Crotty

Brooklake:

Grade 5: Lisa Bregman

Grade 5: David Letchinger

STEM/ART: Emma Harvey

Ridgedale:

Jeff Berland-Physical Education

Laura Kmo-Special Education

Julia Gross-French

Beth Karl-Math

Chris Perruso-Science

All three schools:

Reading Specialist: Lauren McSweeney

I also want to take a moment to welcome our new Special Education Director, Jane Steffen. She will be setting up parent meetings and continuing our work with our Special Education Advisory Group.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Varley

Dr. Melissa Varley
Superintendent