

HOOSAC VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hoosac Valley Elementary School, 14 Commercial Street, Adams, MA 01220

Phone: (413)743-0876 Fax: (413) 743-8406

Superintendent
Mr. Alfred Skrocki

Principal
Mrs. Michelle S. Colvin, M.Ed.A.

Dear Hoosac Valley Elementary Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at HVES! Our building has been very busy over the summer with all of the moving and the reconfiguration of programs, as well as summer tutoring, and our summer food service program. Our custodial staff has been working hard to paint, scrub, clean, wax, move classroom furniture, unload boxes, etc., all in preparation for our students to return to school.

We have some additions to our program offerings, as well as some changes to our staff this year that we are happy to share with you. All of our faculty and staff are excited to meet their new students and families. Please mark your calendars now for our "Meet the Teacher Night" being held on Thursday, September 12th from 5:45-6:45 PM at our school. This Open House-style event is designed to give parents the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and see their classroom and our school.

HVES is also extremely proud to share that we will be opening our Science Lab this year for all students in grades Pre-K - Grade 3. Mrs. April Mazzeo is the teacher in the Lab, and she will be working with students to conduct experiments, to do research, and even some coding, on a variety of topics aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Each class will go to the science lab 1 day per week, for a 45-minute block. More specific information will be coming home in a letter to families from Mrs. Mazzeo.

In terms of staffing, this year we will have 5 sections of Preschool, (2 AM classes and 3 PM classes). In grades K & 1 we will have 4 classes at each grade level, and in grades 2 & 3 we will have 5 classes at each grade level for a total enrollment of approximately 380 students. Classroom teacher assignments are as follows:

- Pre-K:** Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Emerson, & Mrs. Riechers
We will have paraprofessionals that support each classroom.
- Kindergarten:** Mrs. Bachli, Mrs. Poirot, Ms. Woolley, & Mrs. Zdon
We will have paraprofessionals that support each classroom.
- First Grade:** Ms. Alessio, Mrs. Chenail, Ms. Danforth, & Mrs. Ryan
One grade level paraprofessional will rotate among classrooms to provide support.
- Second Grade:** Mrs. Alibozek, Mrs. Cantarella, Mrs. Kelley, Mrs. Kirchner, & Mrs. Trimarchi. One grade level paraprofessional will rotate among classrooms to provide support.
- Third Grade:** Mrs. Bourdon, Ms. McCarthy, Mrs. Prokopowicz, Mrs. Prudhomme, & Ms. Taylor. One grade level paraprofessional will rotate among classrooms to provide support.

Working in our Special Education Department we have:

Ms. Malloy in Kindergarten

Ms. Crane in Grade 1

Mrs. Daniels in Grade 2

Ms. C. Harrington in Grade 3

Mr. Poirot in our Cornerstone Program

Mrs. Larabee in Bridges

Paraprofessionals working with teachers in our SPED programs do a combination of push-in and pull-out services depending on the needs of students.

We have one ELA Coach and one Math Coach at HVES.

Mrs. Dunham is our ELA Coach

Mrs. D. Harrington is our Math Coach

HVES has 2 Interventionists who work to provide support to students in their general education programs.

Mrs. Delmolino is our Reading Interventionist

Mrs. D. Harrington is our Math Interventionist

Each Interventionist works with a paraprofessional to help meet the needs of all students in either a push-in or pull-out model, in collaboration with classroom teachers.

Our specialists meet with students once a week on the same scheduled day. Schedules for special subjects will be shared at the start of school by classroom teachers.

Art: Mrs. Lambertson

Computers/Library: Mrs. Gavazzi

Music: Mr. Rowe

Physical Education: Mr. Wehle

Science Lab: Mrs. Mazzeo

Ms. Arduini and Mrs. (Bresett) Shepard are our Speech/Language Pathologists.

Mrs. Sawyer is our Dean of Students.

Mrs. Biagini is our District Specialist, working in all 3 schools in the District.

Mrs. Salvini is our Elementary Coordinator, working with our SPED Office.

Ms. Harnick is our Occupational Therapist. Mrs. Silveira is her OT assistant.

Mrs. Bannon is our Physical Therapist. Mrs. Kingsley is her PT assistant.

Mrs. Renzi is our School Adjustment Counselor

Mr. Kellogg is our ELL Specialist.

Mrs. Bopp is our School Psychologist.

Mr. Kondel is our Technology Integration Specialist.

We are currently in the process of hiring our School Nurse.

We have a very active and wonderful PTG and surrounding community. Our PTG always encourages and welcomes new membership. Please follow them on their Facebook Page for more information, or contact them at: ptg@acrsd.net

August 28th is the 1st day of school for all students in grades K-3. This is a full day of school for all students. There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 2nd in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. The 1st day of school for all Pre-K students is Tuesday, September 3rd. Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

August 27 th :	Kindergarten Open House 1:00 PM
August 28 th :	1 st Day for all students in Grades K-3
August 30 th :	Pre-K Meet and Greet 1:30-2:30 at HVES
September 2 nd :	Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
September 3 rd :	1 st Day for Pre-K Students
September 10 th :	First PTG Meeting, 6:00 PM, HVES Cafeteria
September 12 th :	Meet the Teacher Night for Grades K-3, 5:45-6:45 PM
September 30 th :	School Pictures at HVES. Information will come home soon!

First Day of School Meeting Locations: (These spots will be used on the 1st Day of School only).

Kindergarten: Students will gather with their classroom teacher on the back lawn, closest to the school. If it rains, students will gather in the cafeteria.

Grade 1: Students will gather with their classroom teacher in the auditorium, located on the 2nd floor.

Grade 2: Students will gather with their classroom teacher in the gymnasium, located on the 2nd floor. Second grade will be located in the first half of the gym, closest to the auditorium.

Grade 3: Students will gather with their classroom teacher in the gymnasium, located on the 2nd floor. Third grade will be located in the 2nd half of the gym, closest to the outside exit doors.

Parking:

As a general rule when visiting our school, please refrain from parking in the McDonald's parking lot. Their spaces are reserved for patrons only.

Handicapped parking is available in the front and back of the building and is reserved for those that have the right. Please do not use them during arrival or dismissal.

Some Notes About Your Child's Day:

Breakfast, lunch, and a nutritious snack are offered daily at not cost to ALL students in grades K-3. All students do participate in our BIC, (Breakfast in the Classroom) program. More information will be coming home from our Food Services Director, Mrs. Rosanne Schutz, about these free programs.

General supervision of students begins at 8:40 AM. Students are marked as tardy at 8:50. Please plan to bring your child to school on time so that they can enter with their classmates beginning at 8:45 AM. Dropping them off late is a disruptive way to begin their day. Children like and need to socialize for a few minutes while waiting to enter, eating breakfast with their friends, and beginning their day. Dismissal is at 3:15 on full days of school and 12:00 on half days.

Arrival & Dismissal:

Unless your child is part of our school-based Daycare or the Rhythm & Rhyme Daycare, they may not arrive to school prior to 8:40 AM. There is no supervision for students before 8:40 and if your child arrives to school before this time, you will be contacted to come and pick them up.

During morning drop-off, cars pull into a line in the driveway along the McDonald's side of the building. When staff comes out at 8:40, students are allowed to exit their family's car and wait for the school day to begin. Students cannot be dropped off unattended before 8:40 AM as staff is not on duty to supervise before that time.

The safest route to school for your child is to put them on the bus to and from school each day. The morning drop-off line for cars can be long and this is often time-consuming for our families due to our geographic location and the traffic on both Commercial Street and Park Street.

At 3:10, all walkers are dismissed from the door closest to the Main Office. There are sidewalks and a crossing guard immediately outside this door. Walkers will gather in the Library at the end of each day and be dismissed from this location.

At 3:10, the doors on the McDonald's side of the school will be unlocked, (and supervised) for parent pick up. Families picking up students at the end of the day must park and come into the school to pick up their child. Parent pick-up takes place in the cafeteria. Due to the number of pick-ups this can be a time-consuming process, but it's necessary for each child's safety. Students are seated according to grade level in our cafeteria, and each child must check out with a staff member before leaving with their family.

Again, families are strongly encouraged to have their child ride the bus to and from school each day due to the limited availability of parking at the school.

Bus dismissal takes place at 3:15. Teachers walk all students to our buses at the end of the day. Buses park in the back of the building on the basketball court. This area is NOT open to public parking. When all buses are loaded, they leave the school and proceed to bus stops. Please be patient with drop-off and pick-up times at bus stops during the first 2 weeks of school as there are some new routes for our drivers. Thank you!

On half days, it's the same plan with dismissal at 12:00.

Please note that for the safety of our students and staff our playground and basketball court are NOT open to the public until dismissal is over.

I would like to share on behalf of the faculty and staff at Hoosac Valley Elementary School that we are so excited to be welcoming your child/children and your entire family back to school in just a few short weeks. Please know that your child's

safety and education are our top priorities, and we will all be working extremely hard to make each and every day count for your child.

I believe that we are THE BEST elementary school in Berkshire County with unique, engaging, and high-quality programs to offer your child/children. I hope you become and/or continue to be active participants in your child's educational program by joining us at our many family-friendly events and volunteer opportunities this year. Here is just a snap-shot of what we are excited about for the 2019-2020 school year:

Spanish as part of Kindergarten
EXPLORE After School Enrichment Program
Science Lab
Trick-or-Treat Night
Polar Express Night
STEM Science Night
Celebration of Success
Math Night
Art Enrichment Program
BTG Plays! with Berkshire Theatre Group for 3rd Graders
Music Concerts
PE Field Day
Art Show
Accelerated Learning Programs for Advanced Students
...and much, much more!

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at HVES during the regular hours of the school day, you must complete a CORI background check. This is a federal requirement in the State of Massachusetts, and while it sounds very official, it's a quick process and extremely private. Simply bring a copy of your driver's license to Mrs. Ciskowski in the Main Office and fill out a quick form. The review is done electronically, and the results are only shared with the Human Resource Officer at the District Office. The school receives notice if the CORI was "passed" but does not receive the specific information in the event that an individual did not pass. Once you receive a "passed" CORI check, it is valid for 3 years. There is no cost associated with this process. If you have specific questions, please contact our Main Office at 743-0876. We hope all of our families are having a sun-filled and FUN-filled summer vacation. We look forward to seeing all of you back with us very soon.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Michelle S. Colvin
Principal
Hoosac Valley Elementary School