



# RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2023-2024

### Highlights

Superintendent's Message.....staff development  
Inside Our Schools.....kindergarten registration  
Strong Schools Status.....construction updates  
Calendar Reminders.....important calendar reminders  
PTA.....PTA updates

**COMMITTED  
TO EXCELLENCE.**

Dear School Community,

Teachers have access to more tools and technology than ever, but which resources will have the most impact in the classroom? What new approaches will click for students?

River Vale Public Schools provides in-district professional development to keep our talented teachers updated on the best practices to support students.

Our teachers participated in a wide range of professional learning with educational consultants this fall, and students are reaping the benefits!

**Leveling up literacy:** Workshops for K-2 teachers and BSI (Basic Skills Instruction) teachers for grades 3-8 explored shared reading, which assists in language development and comprehension skills. That practice and others have produced higher student engagement and achievement. Teachers for grades 3-8 discussed reading strategies from multiple researched-based approaches and focused on grammar, vocabulary, phonics, and interactive read-aloud with discussion to help reinforce content.

**Math formula for success:** Teachers worked on math best practices for grades 3-8, including a math workshop model that helps students understand concepts.

**Tailoring instruction through data:** Information gathered from internal assessment tools and state testing can be used to customize instruction. Our consultants show teachers how to analyze results, identify learning gaps, and implement more targeted interventions. Professional learning consultants also break down the latest New Jersey Student Learning standards, and align strategies to meet the needs of all learners.

**Stress-free test prep:** Instead of packing standardized testing material into a few weeks of instruction, our teachers are helping students prepare throughout the year. They are working with consultants on units of study that incorporate the language used in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment tests.

Thank you to all our teachers for staying at the top of their game to help our students succeed! I also appreciate our supportive families, and wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,  
**Melissa Signore**  
Superintendent of Schools



**INSIDE  
OUR  
SCHOOLS**



Children who reside in River Vale and will be five (5) years of age on or before October 1, 2024 are eligible to be registered for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school-year.



Registration will open on January 2, 2024. Registration forms and additional information will be available on the district website (click here).

Please note; students will not be officially enrolled until the registration is completed at a scheduled appointment with the school staff.

**STRONG  
SCHOOLS  
STATUS**

**SCHOOL**

We're excited to get to work on the transformation of Woodside Elementary School! In fact, although most of the construction is planned over summer break, we'll get a jump on the work in the spring.



We will gut and renovate a few classrooms this spring, and then expand the project to the rest of the building once school is out. Woodside is due to receive new floors, ceilings, lighting, unit ventilators, paint and more.

The district followed a similar spring-into-summer construction timeline at Roberge Elementary and Holdrum Middle School over the previous two years.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**



**December 22**  
One-Session Day

**December 25-29**  
Schools Closed/Winter Recess

**January 1**  
Schools Closed/Winter Recess

**January 2**  
Schools Reopen



## DISTRICT PTA UPDATE

Visit the River Vale PTA website for updated information ([click here](#)).



Don't forget to like and follow the [River Vale PTA Facebook](#) page for updates.



## FOLLOW US!



**ROBERGE  
ELEMENTARY**

**WOODSIDE  
ELEMENTARY**



**HOLDRUM  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**f RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS f**

Contact and Connect with Us!

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

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