

Minisink Valley NEWS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



We **TEACH** someone you **LOVE**

A message from Superintendent Brian C. Monahan

Dear Fellow Community Members,

It's been a vibrant and accomplished summer at Minisink Valley Central School District, and we are more excited than ever as we begin to roll out another promising school year!

It seems it was only yesterday that we sent our Class of 2017 off to change the world, and it won't be long before we welcome our new and returning students to school on September 5.

Exciting new opportunities and innovations await our students and faculty this fall, and beyond. Some of the changes we will experience are the result of this summer's endeavor to complete the EXCEL construction project (details on page 2). Others are a testimony of our community's strong and visionary support of our schools and our youth.

Summer at Minisink Valley...

Over the past two months, scores of our students enjoyed a variety of summer camps in athletics, music, or just plain fun and games, and peer interaction. The camps are also an opportunity for older students to take on leadership roles as coaches and counselors.

Our school libraries were open to encourage learning and growing throughout the season.

A group of thirty incoming kindergartners participated in the two-week "Step Up to Kindergarten" program at the Otisville and Minisink Valley Elementary Schools. They were comfortably eased into their new school life, and are eager to help their peers do the same.



"How high can you go?" New students aimed higher during this summer's "Step Up to Kindergarten" program at the elementary school.

As always, we want to extend a special thanks to all our staff who work through the summer to revitalize our district:

- **Buildings and Grounds:** B&G teams kept the district bustling, sprucing up every niche of our facilities and grooming our legendary fields.
- **Transportation Department:** Staff and mechanics continued to focus on the safety and efficiency of our bus fleet and routes, and bus drivers took time for refresher safety courses.
- **Technology Team:** We will all benefit from the equipment replacements and system upgrades our tech team performed.
- **Faculty:** Many of our teachers participated in professional development and curriculum work.
- **Administration and Support Staff:** Together they worked diligently to lay the groundwork for another quality, academic experience for our students.

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CONTACT US

Good communication between home, school and community is important. Our automated system means that you will be able to leave voice mail messages after hours.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Central Admin. | 355-5110 |
| Business Office | 355-5120 |
| Human Resources | 355-5810 |
| Pupil Personnel | 355-5105 |
| Transportation | 355-5140 |
| Buildings and Grounds | 355-5130 |
| Otis. Elementary | 355-5850 |
| MV Elementary | 355-5270 |
| Intermediate School | 355-5250 |
| Middle School | 355-5200 |
| High School | 355-5150 |

Reminder: Be sure to bring picture identification when visiting any of the buildings.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Minisink Valley Board of Education consists of nine elected members from the community. Board members are volunteers who serve the community and school district without compensation. Board members are: President Joseph Flaherty, Vice President William Cooper, Shawn Cahill, Kathlee DeRose, James Emery, Jr., Alfred Gibbs, John Odland, Catherine Prezioso, and Thomas Salamone.

Community members are always encouraged to attend the Board of Education meetings held in room 108 of the middle school on the following dates: September 14, October 5 and 19, November 2 and 16, December 7 and 21, January 4 and 18, February 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, April 5 and 19, May 3 and 17, and June 7 and 21.

Summer Construction at High School: Improved safety and changes to visitor parking

If you visited or traveled along our main campus over the summer, you noticed the construction vehicles and equipment around the high school building. This activity represents the last phase of the EXCEL construction project, approved by voters in 2008.

In addition to the previously announced re-pavement of parking areas, drainage improvements, and roof work over the pool, the construction of sidewalks on both sides of the school's roadway will improve the safety of students and visitors who walk to the building from non-adjacent parking areas.



Important, new parking directives for community members

The addition of these sidewalks resulted in a narrowing of the high school roadway. To ensure the safety of our students, the timely circulation of school buses, and the unimpeded access for emergency vehicles to the high school building, parking along the roadway is not permitted.

With fall sports underway, and as we begin the 2017-18 school year, we ask our community members for understanding and cooperation in using only designated parking areas.

Federal Breakfast and Lunch Program

Children need healthy meals to learn. Minisink Valley offers healthy meals every day that school is in session. Children from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To see if you meet federal income guidelines and to take part in this program, download the application from www.minisink.com. Look on the Forms/Publications page under "Lunch Application 2017-18." You may also call the registrar, Diane Super, for more information at 355-5812. Applications can be submitted at any time during the year.

Superintendent's Message

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New this year...

With the support of our community and the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility, we are fortunate to have in place a school budget that advances our mission to prepare all our students for the college and career challenges of our time — while balancing the needs of our tax payers.

Curriculum and Instruction

Under the 2017-18 budget, new academic opportunities will ensue from the addition of seven new faculty positions, the reinstatement of two others, and an increased focus on technology.

- **K-5:** Two additional reading teachers will enhance our K-2 curriculum, and two teachers in Academic Intervention Services (AIS) will help strengthen our Student Support Services. K-5 physical education (PE) programs will expand competencies with the addition of a district-wide PE teacher to address class-section needs and provide adapted physical education.
- **Middle School:** The addition of two foreign language teachers will reinstate a two full-year curriculum to all our seventh and eighth graders.
- **High School:** Two new faculty members in English Language Arts (ELA) and social studies will improve class and scheduling options, and create new opportunities for college electives through Syracuse University.
- **District-wide:** A new supervisor of professional learning will be tasked with professional development, and the progressive integration of technology instruction in the classroom. This year will also mark the completion of the Chrome Book initiative with the expansion to all eighth grade classrooms.

Athletics and Extra-Curricular

In athletics, students will benefit from the addition of a modified boys and girls lacrosse program, a varsity girls golf team, and two coaches to our cross county program.

The reinstatement of six **5:15 late bus runs**, five nights a week, will enhance and facilitate student engagement in sports and all other extra-curricular activities.

Community engagement...

It takes all of us to raise and educate our children. We invite you to participate in our school events and extra-curricular initiatives. Join the PTO. Share a talent or a gift. Volunteer. Join us at our Board of Education meetings. Follow the life of our schools on our website and cheer for our students on our Facebook page. Let us meet you and hear from you. Together we can make the new school year the best ever for all our students.

WELCOME BACK and we all look forward to another great year in Minisink!

School Tax and Budget Information

The primary sources of funding for the district's budget are state aid and tax revenues. The 2017-18 budget includes a 1.5 percent tax levy increase, which is within the 4.00 percent tax cap calculation for 2017-18, as defined by state law.

As a result of the school budget tax increase remaining within the tax cap, residents enrolled in the STAR program will receive a tax credit. Depending on when they enrolled in the state's STAR program, residents will receive either a reduction on their 2017-18 tax bill or a rebate check from the state. This is the fifth consecutive year that the Minisink Valley Central School District has been below the property tax cap limit set by the state.

School tax bills will be mailed to residents and businesses at the beginning of September, along with a pre-addressed envelope.

School tax payments should be mailed in the pre-addressed envelope in the form of personal check, bank check, or money order. Please do not send cash in the mail.

All payments must be mailed to:

**MINISINK VALLEY
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO BOX 5047
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10602**

***PARTIAL PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE TAXPAYER.***

Collection periods are as follows:

Sept. 1 – Oct. 2, 2017: No penalty. Payments made in full and postmarked no-later-than September 30 will be accepted and processed without penalty.

Oct. 3 – 31, 2017: Tax amount plus 2% penalty. Tax Payments received with 2% penalty and postmarked no-later-than October 31 will be accepted and processed as paid in full.

After Oct. 31, 2017: Tax payments postmarked after October 31, 2017, will be returned to the taxpayer and reported as unpaid.

Unpaid school taxes will be re-levied in January 2018 on town and county property tax bills, with additional interest and penalties as required by law.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Minisink Valley CSD does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, creed, color, national origin, marital status or disability in educational programming activities that it offers. This nondiscriminatory policy includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees, pay and benefits, and access by students to educational programs, course offerings and activities.

Open Houses

Otisville Elementary:

Grades K–2: Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6-8 PM
Grades 3–5: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6-8 PM

Minisink Elementary:

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6-8 PM

Intermediate School:

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6-8 PM

Middle School:

Grade 6: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6-8 PM
Grades 7/8: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6-8 PM

High School and JROTC:

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 6-8:30 PM

PTO Preschool Story Hour

The Minisink Valley Parent Teacher Organization offers story hour to preschoolers at two locations. All preschoolers and their parents are invited to attend.

Otisville ES, Room 116, at 12:00 PM

Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Jan. 9,
Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1 and 29

Intermediate School, copy room, at 12:00 PM

Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12,
Jan. 23, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17,
May 15, June 5

EARLY DISMISSAL DRILL

The Early Dismissal Drill is part of the county-wide Emergency Management Plan. It has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 20. Each of our school buildings will dismiss 15 minutes early on that day, and there will be no PM Club Kid. Our athletes must also leave campus but can return later for practice or games. Coaches will provide information on the afternoon schedule to team members. We appreciate your help and cooperation and ask that you make appropriate arrangements for your children to arrive home early after school on the day of the drill.

Minisink Valley CSD
P.O. Box 217, Rte. 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

Board of Education
Joseph Flaherty, *President*, William Cooper, *Vice-president*,
Shawn Cahill, Kathlee DeRose, James Emery, Jr., Alfred Gibbs,
John Odland, Catherine Prezioso, Thomas Salamone
Superintendent of Schools
Brian C. Monahan

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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Student Records Policy:

“Opt-Out” Policy for Limited Directory Information

Minisink Valley Central School District is committed to providing the community with district news and information about student-related activities, events and achievements – through newsletters, media releases, the website www.minisink.com and the district’s Facebook page.

To facilitate the sharing of this news, the district has designated some limited categories of directory information that it may share, provided that parents have not opted their child out. These categories are: student’s name, Parents’/Guardians’ name, enrollment status, grade level and school of attendance, participation in school activities or sports, weight and height (for members of athletic teams), degrees and awards, and photos/video depicting the student.

Parents wishing to “opt-out” of releasing their child’s limited directory information without prior written consent for the 2017-18 academic year must notify their child’s school principal in writing by September 29, 2017.

This opt-out method is in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The full policy can be accessed on the Board of Education page of the district’s website.

FERPA NOTICE

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1975 (FERPA) provides access to records, files, documents and other materials which contain information directly relating to a student. All parents/guardians of students under 18 years of age and students 18 years of age or older enrolled in a post-secondary school have the following rights under FERPA:

1. To inspect and review the student’s educational records
2. To be provided, on request, with a copy of all or part of the student’s educational records
3. To exercise limited control over other people’s access to the student’s educational records
4. To designate, in writing, a representative who will inspect, review or copy such records
5. To request and receive from the District a reasonable explanation of information contained in the student’s educational records
6. To challenge the contents of the student’s educational records and to seek to correct the student’s educational records, by contacting the building principal and, if the situation is not satisfactorily remedied, by requesting a hearing with the Superintendent of Schools
7. To report violations of FERPA to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
8. To obtain copies of the Student Records policy and regulations contact the Records Access Officer Michael Giardina, Asst. Supt. for HR.

2017-18 Student Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Conference Day
- 4 Labor Day
- 5 First Day of School for Students
- 20 Early Dismissal Drill
- 21 Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER

- 9 Columbus Day

NOVEMBER

- 7 Conference Day
- 10 Veterans Day
- 17 ½ Conference Day
- 22 Conference Day
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 1 ½ Conference Day
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26-29 Winter Recess

JANUARY

- 1 New Year’s Day
- 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22-25 Regents Exams

FEBRUARY

- 16-19 Presidents Weekend

MARCH

- 15 Conference Day
- 26-30 Spring Recess

APRIL

- 2 Spring Recess

MAY

- 25-28 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 5 Regents Exams
- 12-21 Regents Exams
- 22 Rating Day
- 22 Last Day of School
- 22 High School Graduation

If the district must use more than the allotted number of snow days, make up days will begin with May 25, then April 2, then March 26.