

Minisink Valley NEWS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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



A message from Superintendent Brian C. Monahan

Dear Fellow Community Members,

It is difficult to believe that nearly two months have passed since graduation and we are now quickly approaching the start of a new school year. We want to wish our graduates all the best in the future and look forward to the arrival of our new and returning children on September 6. While this summer has gone by quickly, we should treasure the wonderful community activities and experiences that took place these past few months. It has been my privilege to see many of you at the ball parks supporting our young athletes or out with your families enjoying summertime fairs, fireworks, and being an integral part of our community.

Our campuses have remained vibrant with musical instructions, summer and sports camps, swimming lessons, and community use of the track and nighttime tennis. At the middle school, the district has utilized capital project funds to pave the entrance roads and parking lots and improve the sidewalks. Our buildings and grounds department has been sprucing up our facilities

throughout the district, improving the grounds, and readying each classroom for our faculty, staff, and students for the opening of school.

We are fortunate to have in place another successful budget that reduces taxes, provides our students with expanded classroom opportunities and programs, as well as maintaining our bus replacement plan for our transportation fleet. Our drivers and buses are ready to transport your children to and from school safely for another great year at Minisink.

We are excited about new additions to our curriculum, which include an after-school elementary enrichment program. This pilot program significantly increases opportunities to engage and enrich our students. The middle school will be expanding its Chromebook initiative into seventh grade, and our high school students will benefit from new college-level courses in science and English. All of

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, Alfred Gibbs, John Odland, Catherine Prezioso, Paul Rickard and Thomas Salamone.

Community members are always encouraged to attend the Board of Education meetings held Thursdays in room 108 of the middle school on the following dates: July 14, August 25, September 8 and 29, October 13 and 26, November 17, December 1 and 15, January 5 and 19, February 2 and 23, March 9 and 23, April 20, May 4 and 18, June 8.

***Note:** October 26 is a Wednesday

– continued on page 2

Chris Corwin Memorial Scholarship Car Show Exceeded All Expectations

The First Annual Chris Corwin Memorial Scholarship Car Show on May 23 attracted over 250 vehicles and thousands of spectators to the middle school campus. The event raised more than \$10,000 – far exceeding the



organizers' best estimates – which will go directly to the Chris Corwin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Funds were raised through business sponsorships; concessions; raffle items donated by local businesses; contributions from community members, students, and faculty/staff; a 50/50 raffle; T-shirt sales; and donations accepted at the door from exhibitors and spectators. There was no admission fee.

The scholarship was created in memory of Christopher Corwin, a Minisink Valley Middle School Technology teacher tragically killed in a car accident on Jan. 28, 2016. Known for his boundless curiosity, skills and generosity, Mr. Corwin's impact reached far beyond the classroom and school buildings and the entire community came together to honor his spirit and his legacy.

Organizers would like to thank those who volunteered their time, as well as the individuals and families who came out to support the event. "We hope this scholarship will make the same kind of lasting difference in the lives of graduating Minisink students as Chris Corwin made in our school community," said Richard Budd, who worked side-by-side with Chris Corwin for seven years. The date for the second annual car show is already set for June 5, 2017.

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 2016-17." 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

continued from page 1

this is made possible by the continued strong support from our community.

With the addition of new programs, we are also eager to welcome new faculty and staff joining Minisink. This includes the appointment of Michael Giardina as the new assistant superintendent for human resources. While he will be missed as the principal of the middle school, where he did an exceptional job the past nine years, we are excited about the outstanding qualities he brings to the central office team. Mr. Giardina will be working with a very talented and experienced group, as well as new hires who are enthusiastically awaiting the start of the school year.

In August, the district launched a Facebook page to facilitate consistent two-way communication with our many constituents. Social media is an important means of encouraging this type of interaction, and it is central to technology and communications today. We invite you to like Minisink's Facebook page to keep informed of district and education happenings, and to make a positive contribution to the life of our school community.

As the first day of school fast approaches, please take time to savor the last weeks of summer with your family and friends. I look forward to another exciting and productive school year. On behalf of the Board of Education, our faculty, staff, and students, we would like to thank you for all of your support, and we look forward to seeing you throughout the year around Minisink's campuses.

Yours Truly,
Brian C. Monahan, Superintendent of Schools

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.

EARLY DISMISSAL DRILL

The Early Dismissal Drill is part of the county-wide Emergency Management Plan. It has been scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 22. 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.

Changes in tax payment process coming for residents

Minisink Valley CSD will be implementing a change in the payment process for school tax bills this September. Residents will no longer have the option of mailing their school tax payments to the district, or paying their tax bill in-person at the district office.

To increase efficiency and enhance security of tax collections, the district has contracted with Sterling National Bank (SNB) to handle the processing of all school tax payments from its centralized location in White Plains, NY. As a financial institution, SNB is able to provide same-day processing and detailed reporting. These capabilities will ensure that school tax payments are applied accurately and in a timely manner.

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:

September 1 – 30, 2016: No penalty. Payments made in full and postmarked no-later-than September 30 will be accepted and processed without penalty.

October 1 – 31, 2016: 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 October 31, 2016: Tax payments postmarked after October 31, 2016, will be returned to the taxpayer and reported as unpaid.

Unpaid school taxes will be re-levied in January 2017 on town and county property tax bills, with additional interest and penalties as required by law.

The district's budget is primarily supported by state aid and taxes. The 2016-17 budget includes a 2% reduction in the tax levy. As a result of the budget remaining within the tax levy cap, residents enrolled in the state's STAR program will receive a 2016 state tax credit of approximately \$130 in Orange County. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Minisink Valley Central School District has been able to stay within the property tax cap limit set by the state.

Open Houses

Otisville Elementary:

Grades K–2: Monday, Sept. 19, 6-8 PM
Grades 3–5: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6-8 PM

Minisink Elementary:

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 6-8 PM

Intermediate School:

Monday, Sept. 12, 6-8 PM

Middle School:

Grade 6: Thursday, Sept. 15, 6-8 PM
Grades 7/8: Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6-8 PM

High School:

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

HS JROTC:

Tuesday, 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
on: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 20, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, June 6

Intermediate School at 12:00 PM

on: Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2, May 30

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The Minisink Valley Parent Teacher Organization is a welcome partner in all of our schools. The PTO provides many opportunities for involvement. Past programs have included: Preschool Story Hour, 1,000 Book Reading Program, book fairs, field days, assemblies and movie nights. The PTO also awards several scholarships to graduating seniors. The PTO welcomes your membership and participation. Look for information in building newsletters and on our website, as well as at our open houses in September.

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, Alfred Gibbs, John Odland
Catherine Prezioso, Paul Rickard, Thomas Salamone

Superintendent of Schools

Brian C. Monahan

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Update to Student Records Policy:

New “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 our new Facebook page.

This news may include photos or video of classroom activities and programs, sports events, drama and musical performances, award ceremonies, honor roll lists and other academic recognitions, the annual yearbook, and more. In order to facilitate the sharing of this news, the district has amended its approach to what is known as “student directory information.”

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: a student’s name, Parents’/Guardians’ name, enrollment status, grade level and school of attendance, participation in school activities or sports, weight and height (if a member of an athletics team), degrees and awards, and photos/video depicting the student.

Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, parents wishing to “opt-out” of releasing their child’s limited directory information without prior written consent must notify their student’s school principal in writing by September 30, 2016. This opt-out method is in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and represents an update to the district’s annual “Student Records” notification. 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.

2016-17 Student Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 1-2 Supt. Conference Days
- 5 Labor Day
- 6 First Day of School for Students
- 22 Early Dismissal Drill

OCTOBER

- 3 Rosh Hashanah
- 10 Columbus Day
- 12 Yom Kippur
- 31 ½ Conference Day

NOVEMBER

- 11 Veterans Day
- 18 ½ Conference Day
- 23 Supt. Conference Day
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 2 ½ Conference Day
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26-30 Winter Recess

JANUARY

- 1 New Year’s Day
- 1-2 Winter Recess
- 16 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 24-27 Regents Exams

FEBRUARY

- 17-20 Presidents Weekend

MARCH

- 16 Conference Day

APRIL

- 10-17 Spring Recess

MAY

- 26-29 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 1 Regents Exams
- 14-22 Regents Exams
- 23 Rating Day
- 23 Last Day of School
- 23 High School Graduation

If the district must use more than the allotted number of snow days, make up days will begin with May 26, then April 17, then April 10.