

# WEST RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Say yes  
to new adventures.

August 18, 2017

Dear Parents,

Every new school year brings wonderful new adventures for our students, as well as for parents and staff members as we all join in all of the learning and the fun. Welcome to another fantastic school year at West Ridge. We are happy your child will be learning and growing with us during the 2017-2018 school year.

I hope that you and your children had a summer full of wonderful activities, as well as relaxing family time. It is great for everyone to come back to school renewed, refreshed, and ready for a great year! **Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school for all students.** The staff and I are thrilled to share another year of learning with all of our great students. We are looking forward to hearing about summer adventures and meeting our newest students. This summer has gone by quickly and it has been very busy for West Ridge staff members. Teachers have attended workshops to sharpen their teaching skills. Our custodial staff has been diligently working to make sure everything is sparkling clean and ready for our students. Mrs. Whitehead has held down the fort during the summer registering new students and getting the supplies ready for the teachers. September is always a busy time in our school, filled with the excitement and energy of students and teachers engaging in a new year of learning and discovery.

## **Your child's first day of school (September 5, 2017); will be a full day beginning at 8:35 AM.**

Announcements will be made at 8:40 so that classes are able to begin promptly at 8:45 (1<sup>st</sup> Period begins at 8:45). Student arrival is at 8:35 (students are tardy after 8:40). Please aim to have your child at school by 8:30. Supervision is provided starting at 8:15 every day for students in grades K-6. Lunchtime and recess is scheduled as usual starting the first day of school. Please have your child bring a lunch and drink to school with them. Dismissal is at **3:20 PM**, if you need to pick up your child later than 3:20, please contact our district EXTRAS after-school program.

**On September 5<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will begin their day in their classrooms.** Students at these grade levels will wait outside until 8:35 and then proceed to their classrooms. All students in grades 1 and 2 will come directly to the Multi-Purpose Room on the first day, where they will be greeted by their teachers at 8:35. The children will then proceed to their classrooms with their new teachers (kindergarten children arrive at 9:00 AM.). Any student new to West Ridge may either go directly to his/her classroom or come to the main office. Our counseling staff and paraprofessionals will meet our new students and escort them to their classrooms.

We ask for your support and participation in this effort by attending to a few things at home that will help us work together so your child will have a great year. Please talk to your child about the importance of coming to school every day and arriving on time by **8:35**. Encouraging your child to read every evening, monitor homework and progress, ask your child to share what he/she learned in school each day, and communicate regularly with the teacher. Also, please label your child's items and clothing. Water bottles, lunch bags, sweatshirts, and jackets are the usual culprits. Finally, please check the school calendar each month and check for emails from school.





As educators, we recognize that children of any age may be nervous the first day of school. At West Ridge, we understand that there will be many different feelings on the first day for students at every grade level. They may be excited, shy, nervous, quiet, rambunctious, sad, tired, and lonely or have many more feelings. Teachers always consider this issue during the first few days of school. Teachers will be in touch with you if they feel something is out of the ordinary. Be sure to contact the teacher if you feel that your child is having difficulty with the first day or first week of school. We will work with you to help your child. Mrs. Slipiec (School Psychologist), Mrs. Keller-Moczarski (Social Worker), Mrs. Bianchi (School Nurse), and other support staff are always available to help. Student success and happiness is the goal of every staff member at West Ridge. We believe in the importance of “the whole child” and we will support your child emotionally, socially, and academically to reach his/her full potential.

**Please remember our drop-off procedure.** It is important that no one park their car in the front circle between 8:10 and 8:50. As many of you know this causes congestion and backs up cars on First Street. Drop-off means that your child is old enough to get out of the car, retrieve his/her backpack from the car, and walk into school without your help. Give lots of hugs and kisses at home so your child is ready to jump out of the car and begin his/her day with a smile. It is extremely important that you park your car in the parking lot if you need to get out of the car to help your child or open your trunk for projects or backpacks. Thank you.

**Starting on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, and for the remainder of the school year, kindergarten and first grade students who arrive before 8:30 will always begin their day in the Multi-Purpose Room.** There will be teacher supervision in the Multi-Purpose Room starting at 8:15 every day. The outside doors of the Multi-Purpose Room will be open between 8:15 and 8:30. We ask that you park your car in the lot and walk your first grader to that door to drop him/her off. Do not park or stop in the drop-off circle if you are getting out of the car to help your child. If you have an older child at West Ridge, he or she may walk your first grader to the Multi-Purpose Room from the drop-off area. First grade students will be picked up in the Multi-Purpose Room at 8:30 and walked down to their classrooms. All students who arrive after 8:30 will enter through the main door and walk down to their classroom. At that time, there is both adult supervision and safety patrol supervision in the hallway to help the children get to their classrooms.

At West Ridge, we work to keep the lines of communication open. When school begins, please make sure that the office, WR PTO, and your child’s teacher all have your email address. We will email you important school information throughout the year. Please note that our office and the West Ridge PTO have two different outgoing email accounts. We ask that you check our website regularly and read your email for school announcements. If any questions or problems arise, I encourage you to contact the school and speak to those who might be of help. If your question deals with in-class issues, contact the teacher directly by note, phone, or email. If it deals with administrative issues or emergencies, please contact me.

It is very exciting to begin another school year with your children. We are ready for great adventures! I look forward to continuing a partnership with you in providing your child with a positive school experience. I look forward to seeing you at the first PTO meeting (Sept. 12), at Back to School Night (Sept. 14), and at many other exciting events throughout the year. Enjoy the remainder of the summer and call me if you have any questions at 201-573-6000 ext. 3000 or email me at [christinemccaffery@parkridge.k12.nj.us](mailto:christinemccaffery@parkridge.k12.nj.us). It is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,  
Christine McCaffery, Principal

