

# VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL

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Principal

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August 11, 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians:

As principal of Valley View School, I would like to welcome you to another exciting year! I am extremely eager to have students back into our classrooms and hallways filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to make everyone feel welcomed and connected to our school community as we strive to provide a nurturing environment that works on developing the whole child. Last year our families and staff contributed to the development of our core beliefs.

## **Valley View's Core Beliefs**

Developing the Whole Child

High Expectations

Student Engagement

Family Partnerships

We will continue to work in collaboration with families in order to provide the very best for each and every student that enters Valley View. We are looking forward to having you and your child become active members of the Valley View School Community.

## **Meet and Greet**

On Wednesday, August 30, from 2 PM – 3 PM the school will be open to any parents that would like to bring their child in to visit their classroom and meet their teacher. This is not a time to conference with the teacher. This is a nice opportunity to say hello to your child's teacher and to help alleviate the first day of school jitters.

## **First Day of School:**

Kindergarten and Grade One students: Thursday, August 31, 2017

Preschool: Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

A.M. Preschool Program: Monday – Thursday 8:45 – 11:15 A.M.

P.M. Preschool Program: Monday – Thursday 12:30 – 3:00 P.M.

## **Open House**

**On Thursday, September 7, 2017, Valley View will have our Open House for adults.** Valley View's Open House will include important information regarding grade level curriculum, classroom expectations, homework guidelines and an opportunity to answer questions. We are asking that this evening is reserved only for parents/guardians and teachers. This parent/teacher

format will provide an opportunity to have a discussion and dialogue about your child's educational program. **Parents will go directly to their child's classrooms to meet with the teacher for a group presentation at the established time.** If you have more than one child in our school, we have staggered the grade level meeting times to accommodate this need. We're all looking forward to having this opportunity early in the school year to have meaningful dialogue between teachers and parents. We look forward to seeing all of you at this Open House. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

### **Open House Schedule for Thursday, September 7, 2017**

<b>PreK</b>	<b>4:45 – 5:30 PM</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>5:30 – 6:15 PM</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>6:15 – 7:00 PM</b>

### **Bus Information**

The 2017-2018 bus routes will be posted at various locations in town including the Board of Education Office, Portland Public Library, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Bordonaro's Pharmacy and the Park and Recreation Department. **REMINDER – Each school year a new alternate bus form must be filled out if your child will be picked up or dropped off at an address other than your home.**

### **School Lunch**

Menus will be sent home monthly so you can plan with your child whether to purchase lunch or bring it from home.

**School lunch: \$2.70 per day**

**Milk: \$.60**

**Snacks: \$.50 – 1.00 each**

The easiest way to handle your food account is through MySchoolBucks, which is an online payment service that provides a quick way to add money to your child's school meal account using a credit/debit card or electronic check. Please go to [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com) and create an account. If you wish to send in money, cash or checks should be brought to school in an envelope and labeled with the student's name and Lunch Room. The check should have the student's account number on it.

Free and Reduced Lunch Program: An application for the federally subsidized free or reduced lunch program will be sent home the first day of school. Please fill these forms out as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the lunch program, you can contact the lunch program director at Portland High School at (860) 262-7330.

### **Health and School Insurance**

Health and school Insurance for children is available and the information will also be sent home on the first day of school. Please complete them as directed and return to the school if you are interested in applying.

### **Attendance**

Regular, daily attendance is important in addition to being to school on time each day. **School starts at 8:30 A.M.**

Whenever a child is absent from school, parents/guardians need to:

**Phone the school or send an e-mail to [vvattendance@portlandct.us](mailto:vvattendance@portlandct.us) between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00**

**a.m. with an explanation of the absence. Parents who do not contact the school, will be called at**

**home or work to confirm an absence. The state of CT requires parents to communicate absences to the school.**

The Parent Handbook will explain attendance and excused and unexcused absences in more detail. Personal vacations are not excused absences.

### **Arrival and Dismissal:**

When students arrive at school between 8:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., they are to report directly to their classroom. Parents should not drop their students off until 8:15 A.M. in the morning when school supervision begins.

From 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. there should be no cars traveling through the circle in the front of the main entrance. The circle is for buses and school vans only.

If you are dropping off your child, please enter via Hall Hill and drive up to the drop off area. All children must exit the car from the right hand side of the vehicle for safety reasons. Parents are responsible for unbuckling their child's seat belt and opening the car door when dropping off their child in the designated area. We have an adult on duty to assist the students and to supervise the flow of traffic in the parking lot.

If you are walking into the building with your child, please park in the designated parking spots only. You are not able to park in the drop off area or bus circle at any time. Please say goodbye to your child in the hallway in order to help build independence and confidence. They will walk to their classroom. There are staff members in the halls to assist students as needed.

Dismissal is at 3:00. For end of the day pick up, parents will park in the designated areas and go to the cafeteria where they will wait for their child and sign out their child from school. All students must be signed out to be dismissed for safety reasons. If your child normally rides the bus and you are picking up, a note must be sent to the classroom teacher stating such intent ahead of time or your child will be placed on the bus as normal. CCD students will be dismissed on the appropriate days from the Cafeteria area as well. A CCD form must be signed at the

beginning of the year to place your child on CCD pick-up. Children attending Kids Korner, Kid's Blast, Children's Lighthouse or any other after school program or daycare, must complete an alternate bus form indicating the days they are to be picked up and dropped off.

Students that ride the bus will be dismissed to the buses beginning at 2:57 PM. The last bus leaves Valley View at approximately 3:15 PM.

### **Delay Opening Days**

Planned and Emergency Delay Opening Days: **No A.M. Preschool**

Please see the District Calendar for Delay Opening Days.

In the event school is canceled or delayed because of inclement weather or other emergency, announcements are made over radio stations WTIC (1080 AM and 96.5 FM), WMRD (1150 AM), WDRC (1360 AM and 102.9 FM), WRCH (100.5 FM) and WKCI (101.3 FM). They are also broadcast on television - Channels 3 (WFSB), 8 (WTNH) and 30 (WVIT).

### **PTO**

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful PTO. We hope you will become actively involved and join in the many activities they provide for children and families. The PTO has generously donated a pocket folder for each student to bring back and forth to school each day with important information. We ask that you check that folder each day for any information that is sent home with your child.

On the first day of school you will receive additional school information and forms. If you have any questions when you receive the information, please don't hesitate to call the school.

Again, welcome to Valley View and to our wonderful professional learning community...a place alive with energy...enthusiasm...compassion and high expectations. I cannot wait to meet you at our school's Open House in September. This is going to be an amazing year as we work together to help our students achieve their best.

**"THE FUTURE STARTS HERE."**

Sincerely,

Jessica Bruenn  
Valley View Principal