



Village Elementary School | 100 Main Blvd., Skillman, NJ 08558 | (609) 466-7606

Greetings Families

Dear VES Families,

We are pleased that our school year is off to a great start! I am so proud of our Villagers for their positive energy and for working hard to be their best every day!

Since the beginning of the year students have been practicing our pillar of character: Responsibility in all they do. We also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with school wide lessons, activities and guest speakers in Spanish classes. Special thanks to our parent presenters!

October's pillar of character is Respect. Our PTA helped Villagers show their respect and appreciation for our amazing custodians on National Custodian Day (October 2nd). We are grateful for all they do to keep VES safe and clean! We are also recognizing Disabilities Awareness through class read-alouds and discussions of *All the Way to the Top*, the story of eight year old Jennifer Keelan, who encouraged Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. What a trailblazer!

In November we will shine a light on Indigenous Heritage and Voting Equity in support of our pillar of character, Citizenship and in December we will highlight Giving and Service as we plan for our 29th annual Young Scholars Institute service project.

Parent Teacher conferences are coming up in November in order for you to get detailed updates regarding your child's academic progress and social emotional development. During conferences and throughout the year, you will see evidence of our work toward our [District Goals](#).

Thank you for being a part of the Village School Family and joining us as partners in your child's education. Visit the [VES website](#) for additional information and to view our [Instagram feed](#)!

Enjoy the season!

Ms. Lacy | Principal

Important Dates

[MTSD District Calendar 2023–2024](#)

November 9th and 10th: Schools Closed (NJEA Convention)

November 16th, 17th, 20th, and 21st: Parent–teacher conferences | Early dismissal (1:35 PM) for students

(Lunch is served on early dismissal days. Recess is canceled. Parent pickup will begin at 1:20–1:25 PM.)

November 22nd: Early dismissal (1:35 PM)

November 23rd and 24th: Schools Closed (Fall/Thanksgiving Recess)

December 22nd: Early dismissal (1:35 PM) for students

December 25th – 29th, January 1st: Schools Closed (Winter Recess)

Week of Respect: Making the World a Brighter Place

During the Week of Respect (October 9th–13th) Villagers learned that respect is more than just an idea or way of thinking but a way of being. Villagers are showing respect by getting to know others rather than judging them, listening to what others have to say, disagreeing respectfully and being sensitive to people's feelings. We shine bright with respect when we manage our emotions instead of using insults, making fun of others or name calling. An easy way to show respect is by being courteous and treating people the way you would like to be treated! Students participated in themed Spirit Days and Morning Meeting activities to further explore these concepts.



Thank you for furthering these discussions at home as we are always looking for students to show respect and compassion throughout the year for themselves and others, in our school and in our global community.

As always it is our steadfast priority to ensure that all students feel safe, nurtured, respected and validated. If any member of our community does not, we are all impacted. Our counselors, staff and building leaders are ready to support and address the needs of all of our children.

Digital Citizenship Week

On October 16–20, Villagers learned about building healthy habits around technology use through Morning News videos on caring for your device, balancing technology time with other activities, respectful technology use, ways to identify and prevent cyber-bullying and managing distractions. We are looking forward to seeing how students put this learning into practice so they can engage with technology in thoughtful and healthy ways.



Halloween at VES

As Halloween approaches, we would like to inform you of upcoming activities in which your children are welcomed to participate. On Tuesday, October 31st, we will kick off the day with our annual Readers' Theater assemblies. VES students and staff will participate in fun and interactive large group read-alouds, then each class will share collaborative creature art pieces!

Halloween class parties will be planned, facilitated and attended by room parents and their designees only. Designated parent participants are required to check in at the front door sign-in station upon arrival.



Students are welcome to wear VES/Monty gear or Halloween costumes for their class parties. Costumes should be quick and easy to change into/out of and be free of

props/weapons. Your child's teacher(s) and room parents will provide classroom party details.

Alternative activities will be available for students not participating in Halloween activities. Just let your child's teacher know so we can plan accordingly. Thank you for your support and cooperation in making Halloween organized, safe, and fun for everyone!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on November 16th, 17th, 20th, and 21st. During conferences you will meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss their learning progress thus far. Keep an eye out for a communication on November 1st regarding the Parent Portal sign up directions. The conference sign up window will be between November 3rd-13th.



PTA Happenings

Our Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have so much to offer to students and families and they are instrumental in supporting our teachers and schools! Special thanks to our Welcome Week, Open House, Back to School Night and Picture Day volunteers! Check out the MES PTA website for ways you can volunteer and support important fundraisers while also helping VES!



Link: [The Montgomery Elementary School PTA \(MESPTA\)](#)

Current projects include the Charleston Wrap Fundraiser, the PTA Membership Drive and the Read to Succeed program which is outlined below:

Welcome to the VES "Read to Succeed" program! In an endeavor to boost reading and make it an enjoyable activity, the MES PTA has extended the "Read to Succeed" program, which is already available at LMS, down to our 3rd and 4th graders, beginning today!

Read to Succeed is a free program sponsored by iPlay America, Freehold. Every student who reads five (5) books from **today to January 4th, 2024** and submits their reading log will be eligible for a free unlimited ride band!



Only students currently in 3rd Grade or 4th Grade are eligible to participate. The [Reading Log](#) must be signed by a parent/guardian and then handed in to their teacher for final sign off by **January 5th, 2024**. Late entries will NOT be accepted. At the end of the program, the PTA will distribute a voucher to redeem your FREE Unlimited Ride Band at iPlay America. This voucher will be valid from January 24 – March 6, 2024

The program flier and the reading log are attached for your reference. Additional information is available through our [website](#). Please email mespta@mtsd.us with any questions you may have.

We look forward to a successful campaign and happy reading!

-- The MES PTA

[Montgomery Special Education PTA \(MSEPTA\)](#)

Learn about MSEPTA's mission and goals and ways you can help by clicking on the link above.

Cold Weather and Recess

Students think with clearer brains when they have a chance to get moving. To help with this, we will be holding recess whenever the weather allows. Please expect that we are planning for outdoor recess and dress your child accordingly. Hats, gloves, scarf, a heavy jacket and appropriate footwear are **MUST HAVES!**



Be sure to label your child's belongings so we can easily return lost items. Check the Lost and Found during your visits as unclaimed items will be donated.

Young Scholars Institute Service Project

Our 29th annual schoolwide holiday fundraiser and gift project will take place in December to help support children who are part of this program in Trenton. Please expect more information from your child's teacher as December approaches.

