



The Village Bluebird

August/September 2023

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

The First Day of School will be Wednesday, September 6th!

(Student School Day Hours: 9:35 AM – 3:55 PM)

Greetings Families

Dear Village School Families,

We hope you are enjoying the summer and looking forward to the start of school. If you are returning to VES, welcome back! If you are new to VES, welcome to our wonderful VES family and home of Blazer the Bluebird! Our team of teachers and staff cannot wait to see you and are excited about all that a new school year will bring!

VES is a great place to learn and grow! Your involvement in this process is encouraged and appreciated. One way to stay connected is through PTA involvement. The Montgomery Elementary School PTA (MESPTA) co-presidents, Mrs. Unnati Patel and Mrs. Christine Hoffman and their team of volunteers are assisting us in planning for a terrific school year. Please visit the [PTA link](#) on our website for more information and ways to get involved. Updates will be coming soon.

On our first few days of school, our staff and PTA volunteers will help guide students to classrooms in the morning and their buses during dismissal. Color coded maps at each entrance will also help students navigate the building. Join us for the Open House on September 5th for a building preview!

Please review this issue of the Bluebird for important dates and links. Most importantly, take some time to review our updated 2023–2024 [school handbook](#) which includes detailed information about VES as well as the [VES website](#) and our upcoming Instagram account to stay updated and informed throughout the year!

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Ms. Susan Lacy | VES Principal

Mrs. Lia Camuto | Assistant Principal



Important Dates

Friday, August 25th: Class Lists Released (after 5:00 PM)

Tuesday, September 5th: 3rd Grade Open House (1:20 – 2:00 PM)

Tuesday, September 5th: 4th Grade Open House (2:20 – 3:00 PM)

Wednesday, September 6th: First Day of School! (Full Day: 9:35 AM – 3:55 PM)

***Tuesday, September 19th:** 3rd Grade Back to School Night (6:00 – 7:30 PM)

***Wednesday, September 20th:** 4th Grade Back to School Night (6:00 – 7:30 PM)

Monday, September 25th: Students Off – Yom Kippur

****Wednesday, October 4th and Thursday, October 5th:** School Picture Days

*Back to School Nights are for parents/guardians only. The evening will begin with a community and related arts fair, followed by presentations by your child's classroom teacher and our school leaders.

**You'll receive more specific information about School Picture Days (including the exact date and time) from your child's teacher.

Join Us for the VES Open House on Tuesday, September 5th!

Come visit your classroom and meet your teachers!

- Your child's Bus Tag will be available in your child's classroom. If you are unable to attend, they will be given to students on the first day of school.
- Any medications and forms will be accepted in the VES Health Office during the Open House.

Parking is available in the front, side, and rear lots or the lot across the street from the school.

Our PTA volunteers will be at the school to greet and direct you. They will also have school spirit wear and other items available for purchase. We look forward to your visit and welcoming students to VES!

Open House Schedule:

- 3rd Grade: 1:20 – 2:00 PM
- 4th Grade: 2:20 – 3:00 PM

Placement and Supply List Information

Friday, August 25th after 5 PM, class lists and teacher welcome letters will be available on Parent Resources. General grade level supply lists were shared in our June and can be found on the [VES home page](#). Teacher welcome letters may include a request for supplies in addition to those listed on our general grade level supply lists. Keep in mind that teacher websites may continue to be updated until school begins.

Please note that you will only be able to access class lists and teacher welcome letters once all required forms are completed. Please review the letter regarding required forms sent from the school district to all families on Friday, August 11th.



As noted in our June edition, 4th graders may happen to be placed in classes where they will have one teacher for language arts and another teacher for mathematics/science/social studies. Students will travel as a homeroom class between the two teachers who will work as a collaborative team.

We have worked diligently to place your child in the best possible setting. Please know that at this time we will not be able to accommodate any requests for classroom changes. Thank you for understanding.

To View Student Placement Information:

- 1) Visit <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>
 - 2) Enter your username, which is your email address, and your password. If you forget your password, use the "Forgot My Password" link. Your password will then be sent by email. If you are unable to log in or do not have an account, please contact genesissupport@mtsd.us
 - 3) Click on *Documents* and view the teacher's welcome letter.
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Back to School with Maschio's

Please visit the link for information from [Maschio's Food Services](#) to help you plan for the school year and learn about our school lunch program and offerings.

Snack and Food Allergies

Please send your child with a healthy nut-free snack and water (no glass containers please) every day. According to district regulations (5531), all classrooms will be nut-free and no students or staff will share food. All classroom celebrations will include methods that do not involve food. For more information, please [click here](#) for the Guidelines for the Management of Life Threatening Health Conditions in School.

A Note from the Health Office

If your child requires medication at school either administered daily or as needed for an emergency (this includes Epi Pens), please make sure that all medication is brought into the Health Office **before** the first day of school and that all required medical forms are completed for administration of the medication. The forms are found on the VES website under [Health forms](#) and include: the Allergy Action Plan, Asthma Treatment Plans and Medication Administration form.

Medications and forms will be accepted in the Health Office during the Open House on September 5th.



If your child is new to the school district, please provide the Health Office with a current physical exam completed by his or her physician and a copy of your child's immunization record before the first day of school. Please have the physician complete the Child Health Form also found on the VES website under forms. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Health Office.

Busing, Parent Pickup and Dropoff

Students are encouraged to ride the bus to and from school. Specific information about your child's bus route and number can be found on your Parent Resources account. Bus tags with important identification and bus route information will be provided during our Open House. Please attach this tag to your child's backpack. Please review the bus rules in our [Handbook](#) with your child and visit the [Transportation website](#) for more information.

Should you need to transport your child, please review these drop off and pick up procedures carefully to help us create a safe and smooth process.

Before School Drop Off: If you need to drive your child to school, please use the driveway on the right side of the school to travel to the rear entrance. **This entrance will be open from 9:25 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. Please do not drop your child off early as the doors will be locked until 9:25, and there is no supervision.** Upon arriving at the rear of the school please follow the guidelines below.



1. Travel as far forward as possible along the sidewalk on your left.
2. Have your child ready to exit the car when you reach the sidewalk.
3. Stop your vehicle next to the school sidewalk.
4. Your child may exit on his or her own on the driver's side of the car, along any part of the sidewalk. Children are not permitted to exit from the passenger side without assistance from an adult.
5. Two doors will be open and supervised for your child's convenience and to assist with the flow of traffic.
6. Please remain in the line of cars in front of you and wait for traffic to move. Do not dart around any cars to avoid colliding with those exiting at the front of the line. Should you need to pass another car to exit, please do so with extreme caution!
7. DO NOT park in the Fire Lane for any reason.
8. Please do not drop students off in the front of Village School at any time, except for before school programs. After 9:35 a.m., park in our front visitors' lot and walk your child into the building. **An adult must sign children in.**

After School Pickup : Please send a note to your child's teacher if you plan on picking up your child in the afternoons. Include in the note, the name of the person picking up your child. If your child is to be picked up by someone other than you, they must be identified by name in your note to the teacher. The person picking up your child will be asked to produce identification (valid driver's license) when they come to pick your child up. All parents/designees should be prepared to produce identification at any given time, upon request, and they must sign children out before leaving the school building. Teachers will send their students to the parent pickup waiting area in the cafeteria with their pick up note. **Without a note, children will be sent to their buses.**

Parent Pickup Dismissal Times:

- Parent pick up doors will open at 3:45
- Students will be dismissed to parent pick up at 3:50

Parent Pickup Driving Directions

When picking up your child up at the end of the school day, please use the driveway on the right side of the school to travel to the rear entrance of the school. Turn left into the first entrance of the large parking lot. Park in the designated spaces and enter through the rear cafeteria doors and sign your child out in the cafeteria.

Please exit the parking lot using the exit at the far/opposite end side of the lot and turn left.

Please review our school [handbook](#) for additional details regarding our midday drop off and pick up procedures and the best way to communicate same day changes to your dismissal needs. Your assistance in following these guidelines will help us and help you, keep all children and visitors safe. Thank you for your cooperation!

School Counselor Offerings

Our counselors, Mrs. Fornal and Mrs. Schantz, are excited to start the school year. They are available to provide social, emotional and academic support to any VES student. Throughout the school year, they offer individual and small group counseling to students who would benefit from additional support. To begin the year, they will be hosting groups to support our newcomers so they can acclimate and develop friendships within our learning community.

Feel free to reach out to them with any questions. Mrs. Schantz will be the third grade counselor and can be reached at jschantz@mtsd.us. Mrs. Fornal will be the fourth grade counselor and can be reached at lfornal@mtsd.us. You may also call 609-466-7606 and press 5 for the counseling office. If you have any questions or concerns that require immediate attention, please contact the main office. Our counselors will be available for assistance once school resumes in September.

YMCA Before and After School Programs at VES

The YMCA of Princeton provides childcare before and after school for children who attend VES. The YMCA tailors its hours to accomodate working families, and offers children diverse and enriching activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

Visit their website at <https://www.gscymca.org/locations/princeton-ymca/> or call the YMCA After School Program Office at: 609-497-9622 for more information.