



# Clark Public Schools

365 Westfield Avenue • Clark, New Jersey 07066

**Edward Grande**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Tel.: (732) 574-9600 x3392  
Fax: (732) 574-1456  
E-mail: [egrande@clarkschools.org](mailto:egrande@clarkschools.org)

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Kindergarten Students,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families enjoying the start of this spring season. I am writing to you in order to explain our plan for our incoming kindergarten students. This plan is for Frank K. Hehny School, being the physically larger building, to have four sections at each grade level moving forward while Valley Road School will only have three. We currently only have three sections of kindergarten at both FKH and VRS, so this adjustment will allow us to offer an additional section at FKH where we have the needed space and consequentially decrease kindergarten class sizes at both schools from a current average of 25 to an average of around 18 with our incoming registrations at this time. In other words, our existing space will be optimized with the goal of implementing the highly research-supported strategy of lowering student-to-teacher ratios.

In order to accomplish this goal, we worked with our demographer, Applied Data Services based out of Succasunna, New Jersey, to conduct a boundary realignment study and subsequently redistricted our incoming kindergarteners. Any students living south of Westfield Avenue or northwest of the Garden State Parkway who previously would have attended VRS will now be attending FKH. The two maps that together reflect this change, i.e., one prior to the redistricting and the other after this redistricting, can be found on the district website ([www.clarkschools.org](http://www.clarkschools.org)) in the "News and Announcements" section towards the middle of the page under the "Kindergarten Redistricting" heading. We redistricted along major roads since such a practice is typical so as to avoid a more haphazard and piecemeal approach. The placement letters from me dated March 8 reflect that redistricting, and we need to adhere to this approach in a consistent fashion without exception in order to obtain the desired result while being fair to everyone involved. Time was needed after the registrations were completed at the end of February but before these placements could be communicated so that we could examine real-time, accurate data. Our redistricted kindergarten students will be attending FKH for grades kindergarten through five, and we did not redistrict students with siblings who will still be at VRS next school year in an effort to make this change as least disruptive as possible. These non-redistricted students will be able to remain at VRS for grades kindergarten through five. Please know that your son/daughter will still be attending school with his/her neighbors and, if you live 2.0 or more miles from his/her school of attendance, he/she will be entitled to busing. In addition, we offer a before and after care program at each building. Information regarding this program can also be found on our district website by going to the "More" tab towards the top right of the page and then the "Departments" sub-tab. There you will find a "Before and After Care" link.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of our desire to maximize our available resources in the best interest of all of our children. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your son/daughter's school with any questions that you may have.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Grande*

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