



POCANTICO HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 15, 2018

Dear Parents,

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year. We strive to personalize learning for every child, building upon their interests and abilities to prepare them to be life-long learners, skilled communicators, capable problem solvers and strong citizens. We are looking forward to a busy and productive year as we move forward with this exciting work through the following initiatives. We are proud of all we do well and are committed to a culture of continuous improvement.

- Developing rigorous and comprehensive curriculum aligned with standards of excellence and practices; building the capacity of our professional staff with specialized training:
 - Establish a comprehensive elementary literacy program based upon the Readers/Writers Workshop model
 - Build a K-8 world language program of thematic immersion in French and Spanish
 - Deepen teacher knowledge of best practices and their ability to design, implement and assess universal support systems and methodology
 - Grow instructional practices to support inquiry-based learning, aligning the teaching of content such as coding, robotics and research with traditional core curriculum such as math, science and art and providing children with a *Makerspace* that combines high and low technology tools to enhance STEM learning and creativity
 - Develop math units of instruction and teacher proficiency in making conceptual connections and designing student centered lessons
 - Grow and nurture emotional intelligence among staff and students to foster a healthy school climate that develops ethical learning, responsible decision making and positive risk-taking, respect, cooperation, conflict resolution and resilience
 - Expand therapeutic supports for elementary and secondary students and create a school based therapeutic support center
- Maintaining a safe, consistent and developmentally appropriate student-centered environment that transcends classroom walls
- Promoting collaboration amongst all staff; strengthening the team process
- Being fiscally responsible and responsive; preparing and executing a capital project, developing and refining systems to promote efficiencies and maximize resources
- Recognizing and celebrating the District's rich diversity and grow culturally competent practices

This mailing is filled with important information, please read it carefully and be mindful that there are several items that require you to provide us with information about your child and/or return signatures, these items are indicated below with an asterisk (*):

- ✓ Principal's letter detailing the school schedule and back to school information
- ✓ Class placement and scheduled specials for elementary students
- ✓ Student schedules for middle school students
- ✓ Medical policies, procedures, and immunization information
- ✓ Free and Reduced Lunch Information & Application
- ✓ Booklet with important information on student and parent rights and whom to contact
- ✓ Information on the After-Care Program
- ✓ Emergency Contact Form*
- ✓ Explanation of the World Language Program and Selection Form (for new families and rising Kindergarten) *
- ✓ Photography and Information Release Form*
- ✓ Plain Language Code of Conduct*
- ✓ Plain Language Responsible Use of Technology Agreement*
- ✓ Pocantico Hills App Information
- ✓ Birthday Celebration Project Information
- ✓ PTA and Foundation Handouts
- ✓ September breakfast and lunch menus
- ✓ Supply lists

We hope you and your family enjoy these last few weeks of summer. If you have questions, please give us a call at 631-2440 or send us an email.

Sincerely yours,

Carol L. Conklin-Spillane
Superintendent of Schools
cconklin-spillane@pocanticohills.org
914.631.2440 x 703