



Chestnut Ridge Middle School

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"Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day."

Principal
James Barnes

Assistant Principal
Jennifer MacMillan

Dear Chestnut Ridge Parents/Guardians,

Each year the summer seems to grow shorter and in a flash we are expecting the return of our students. We have been busy preparing for our students return since the closing of school in June. Here at Chestnut Ridge we have worked to modify class schedules, completed new staff hires, and developed new curriculum. Much goes on in a school during the summer months in anticipation of the new opportunities that a new school year brings. We are excited to begin the school year and to work collaboratively with each of you for the success of all of our students. We welcome your child with open arms at CRMS as they get ready to tackle new challenges beginning on the first day of school which will be **Wednesday, August 29, 2018.**

New Schedule

This year we will be changing the start and end time for our students. All staff and students will begin each day in the Advisory classroom. All students must be in their Advisory by **7:50AM.** The student day will continue to consist of 8 periods, each of which will be **49** minutes in length, and the student day will now end at **2:55PM.** The teaming concept will continue as the Teams will still be referred to as Communities.

| Grade | Community | | Grade | Community | | Grade | Community |
|-------|-----------|--|-------|-----------------|--|-------|--------------|
| 6 | Titans | | 7 | Shining Stars | | 8 | Trailblazers |
| 6 | Olympians | | 7 | American Heroes | | 8 | Explorers |

School Safety and Security

We will continue with our security procedures utilizing the vestibule. We are requesting that each visitor use the buzzer and camera near the front door and be prepared with the following:

- Explain the purpose of their visit.
- **Show valid official photo identification** (driver's license preferred).
- Leave any items to be delivered on the cart inside the vestibule.
- If coming to a scheduled meeting, report directly to main office and wait to be escorted to meeting.
- If coming to pick up a child for early dismissal or from the Nurse's office, please wait in vestibule.
- It is recommended that parents schedule an appointment to meet with a staff member or administrator.
- Special arrangements may be made at the building level for frequent school partners such as PTO.
- Surveillance devices may be used in school buildings and on school grounds.

Olweus Positive School Climate Program:

The District will continue with the Olweus Positive School Climate Program in grades 1 – 8. This will allow CRMS to continue with class meetings during Advisory on Township Tuesdays. We will hold our 1st Township Tuesday on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 with an activity which will kick off Week of Respect. The Olweus Program will connect to our Character Education program which we have been doing for the last few years.

Communication with CRMS

We will send home a weekly Alert Solutions email to the email addresses listed in PowerSchool. **Please make certain that your email address is up to date in PowerSchool.** These announcements will contain important information about CRMS, the CRMS PTO and the various activities. I would also recommend that parents/guardians sign up for **Remind** to receive instant text messages from me throughout the year. **If you signed up last year, you do NOT have to sign up again.** Depending on your child's grade level, please text the message below to the listed number. You can also follow me on **Twitter** at @CRMSprincipal.

| Grade | Text Message | Number |
|-------|--------------|--------|
| 6 | @crms2021 | 81010 |
| 7 | @crms2020 | 81010 |
| 8 | @crms2019 | 81010 |

Staffing Updates

| New Staff | Position | Replacing |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Corrine Dowdell | Computer Education | From BHMS |
| Becky Quinn | Mathematics | From Wedgwood |
| Laura Kinney | Technology Education | From OVMS |
| Jenny Kerfoot | World Language | From WTHS |

State Assessments

At this point, the State of New Jersey will continue using the new **PARCC Assessment** during the 2018-2019 school year. Again, there will be only one testing window and we are going to test the entire school at one time over the course of 3 days – April 30, May 1 and 2, 2019. The Grade 8 Science Assessment, NJSLA-S, will be administered over 2 days – May 20 and 21, 2019.

Interscholastic Sports

The Washington Township School District will continue to have a Washington Township Middle School Field Hockey and Wrestling team. These teams will participate against other area Middle School teams. Boys and Girls Basketball will continue and we will play against Orchard Valley and Bunker Hill. **If your child plans on participating in any interscholastic or intramural sport activity, a mandatory sports physical form is required to participate, which is located on our website under the Nurse's tab.**

Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up

We will continue our **traffic pattern** to eliminate cars and buses using the same path. The buses will drop off and pick up students in the front of the building while parent drop off and pick up will be around the building. Parents **must not** drive in front of the building during the following hours: **7:30-7:50AM and 2:30-3:00PM** or you will be stuck behind all the buses. **Students may be dropped off and picked up in front of building after 7:50AM until 2:30PM.**

Back to School Night (Grades 6, 7, and 8)

For planning ahead purposes, please mark your calendars for Grade 6, 7, and 8 Back to School Night which will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2018. We look forward to sharing this annual event with our parents. We will begin at 6:30PM with parents meeting in their child's ***Advisory classroom***. After a brief welcome by Ms. MacMillan and me, parents will receive a copy of their child's schedule from their Advisory teacher and will attend a shortened schedule of all 8 periods. We should conclude the evening by 8:30.

Parental Consent Forms

The Washington Township School District will continue the procedure for receiving a variety of forms and policies this year. All parents will be required to view the Parental Consent Forms on the district webpage. After reviewing these forms, please print and sign the Parental Consent Form and return to your child's Advisory teacher by September 7, 2018.

On the first day of classes, your child will receive a **Student Profile Sheet** and **Emergency Health Card** from Chestnut Ridge. Please complete and return those documents by Friday, September 7, 2018.

Your child schedule information.

We are excited to announce that our middle schools will use PowerSchool to announce your child's Community, Advisory and schedule for the 2018-2019 school year. On **Friday, August 24, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.**, you will be able to access your child's scheduling information via PowerSchool. This will replace the summer mailing. In order to access your child's scheduling information, you will need to have your PowerSchool username and password or your student's username and password. The link to PowerSchool is on the District webpage at www.wtps.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Chestnut Ridge Middle School Counseling Office by emailing mbucci@wtps.org.

On behalf of the entire Chestnut Ridge faculty and staff, it is our pleasure to welcome your family to an exciting 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to seeing you on August 29, 2018. Until then, please enjoy a happy, healthy and safe remainder of the summer.

All Our Best,

Mr. James Barnes
Principal

Ms. Jennifer MacMillan
Assistant Principal