



Orchard Elementary
Ridgewood Public Schools

Mary K. Ferreri, Principal
201-670-2730
mkferreri@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Good Morning Orchard School Families!

Happy Labor Day weekend! I hope that you and your children are enjoying one last “hurrah” to summer. Here at Orchard, we are gearing up for our first day on Wednesday, September 5!

This email will share some reminders for our opening of schools, as well as some dates to be aware of as we head into the rush of September. Please take the time to read through so that you are prepared for our start to school!

Opening of School Reminders

Although many of you are returning parents, we know there may be some questions you have about our daily procedures. Here are some points of information and reminders for you:

Arrival/Dismissal

- Arrival for school is recommended between 8:30 and 8:35 AM. Teachers will lead students inside at 8:40 with the first bell. At 8:45 a second bell will ring and the day begins officially.
- First Grade students convene near the amphitheater outside of the double doors, labeled entrance “2”.
- Second Grade students convene at the double doors near the cafetorium, labeled entrance “3”.
- Third, Fourth and Fifth students convene in the amphitheater.
- First through Fifth Grade students are now able to use the “drop and go” drive up lane in the morning, if your child does not require you to escort them to line. Students who attend morning care will be escorted to their area lineup.
- Dismissal is at 3:00 PM. Dismissal occurs directly at entrances used for the morning. Teachers will dismiss students individually to families/caretakers. Students attending aftercare will be escorted to the program by school staff.

First Day Reminders

- 9/5/18: First Day of School! The first day is a minimum day - dismissal is at 12:45 PM. On the first day, there is no lunch, so please pack a larger snack for your child. When we have half days of school, there is no lunch service.
- All parents are invited to a welcome back coffee directly following drop off on Wednesday, 9/5. Please join us!

Snack/Lunch

- Students do eat a snack each day. You should pack something relatively simple to eat, and a water for your child. We do not supply snack or water for students during the day. We have filtered, cold water fountains with bottle refill stations located on each floor of the building.
- Lunch is available for purchase through [Village Fresh](#). It is recommended that our Kindergarten students bring lunch from home in the first few weeks, if possible. This way their lunch will be something they enjoy and something familiar.
- While we are not a “nut-free” school environment, we recommend packing snacks that do not contain nuts or other common allergens, as snacks are eaten in the classroom. Those items are acceptable to eat in our lunchroom. Specific notations on nut free classrooms will come from your child’s teacher.

Your child’s teacher will have additional information and reminders for you in the days to come. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly!

Community Outreach Program: Next month, we kick-off our first Community Outreach program with a continued focus on media usage. Dr. Michele Borba will present on "Raising UnSelfies: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me, Plugged-In, Trophy-Driven World" at 7 PM at GWMS. You can learn more about the presentation and [her work via her website](#). On Tuesday, October 30, we will host a book discussion with district administrators and parents as a follow up to her presentation. I hope you make time to attend these informative and thought-provoking events - you will walk away with something to think about or try! For more information, please visit the [RPS website](#) to view the information for the Well-Being series.

HSA Meetings: As always, we encourage all parents to attend our HSA meetings.

Our monthly meetings are on Thursdays, directly following CBA. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday, September 20, at 9:15 AM**. All upcoming HSA [meeting dates are listed on our website](#).

Arriving to School...Walking or Riding:

In walking to Orchard school, many of our students cross busy streets, such as Ackerman, Lincoln, and Bellair. Be sure your child knows to walk to the crosswalks and to be crossed by a crossing guard! It doesn't matter their age - we live in a busy area and the hours around school drop off and pick up are often hectic times. If you have a child who bikes/scoots to school, remind them to walk their bike or scooter across the street. They must also walk their bike/scooter once on Orchard property. Children in fourth or fifth grade are permitted to bike/scoot to school.

We understand that not everyone is able to walk to school. To that end, a different reminder - please make sure you are aware of New Jersey's car seat laws. Often we will open doors in the morning and I will see students who are not properly secured or who are not in the proper seat. [This handy reminder from the NJ State Police](#) will tell you where your child should be sitting. Additionally - [new guidelines were just released from the American Academy of Pediatrics](#). While their update on rear facing car seats is the latest information, it is interesting to note that they recommend children remain in the back seat of a car until age 13. Be sure to buckle up and be safe!

As with every monthly update, we need reminders about our procedures and policies here at Orchard. Please read below on two items of note:

- Drop Off/Pick Up: Please remember to pull all the way up if using the drop off lane in the morning. Also, please wait in that line and do not pull out of the line once your child has exited. Additionally, at pick up time, please do not double park and please remember that we do not have a pick up and go area. Finally, please remember - and tell all caregivers - the assigned spot for the HSA winner is assigned! Please do not park there. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students safe!
- Link and follow our Google Calendar for HSA events! [Go to this link](#) and click on the +Google Calendar in the right bottom corner.

- Lunch Ordering: Just some reminders for ordering lunch through [Village Fresh](#). All orders are placed online. Orders must be in **by 8:00 AM**, otherwise, they will not be delivered on that day. **Lunch service begins Thursday, September 6.** Thank you!

Please review the list of dates below for upcoming events at our school. I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday, September 5, for our opening of school!

Warmly,



Mrs. Ferreri

Upcoming events:

9/5: *First Day of School! Welcome Back Coffee, 8:45 AM; Minimum Day - 12:45 Dismissal*
9/6: *CBA (Community Building Assembly) 8:45 AM - All are welcome!*
9/7: *Class Parent Meeting, 9 AM*
9/10: *School Closed - Rosh Hashanah*
9/13: *CBA; Back to School Night, 6:30 PM*
9/19: *School Closed - Yom Kippur*
9/20: *CBA; Spirit Day; HSA Meeting 9:15 AM; New Family Orientation, 7:30 PM*
9/24: *School Picture Day!*
9/27: *CBA; Drama Club Meeting - any interested students 3-5 must attend with parent/guardian, 3 PM; Back to School Picnic, 5:30 PM*
9/29: [Oktoberfest!, Ed Foundation Dinner](#)
10/2: *Well Being Series: Michele Borba, "Unselfie", 7 PM @ GWMS*