



RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

2023-2024

Highlights

Superintendent's Message.....assessment updates
Inside Our Schools.....week of respect
Strong Schools Status.....construction updates
Calendar Reminders.....important calendar reminders
PTA.....PTA updates

**COMMITTED
TO EXCELLENCE.**

Dear School Community,

Over the last two school years, I shared how we were leveraging data-driven resources to customize student instruction.

Now I am delighted to share highlights of students' state assessment results.

We are confident of a connection between the scores and our strategies.

The recent District Assessment Report (DAR), a comprehensive summary that provides invaluable insight into student performance, was presented during the Oct. 17 Board of Education meeting. We are diligent in comparing the outcomes of state-mandated assessments with our district's internal benchmarks, giving us a more holistic understanding of our students' achievements.

Our students have demonstrated remarkable success on the NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment), consistently surpassing state averages in all grade levels and subjects.

In mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), our students achieved double-digit percentage point leads over state averages. For instance, the number of fourth-grade students who met or exceeded expectations in math surpassed the state average by 31.6 percent. Similarly, our sixth-grade students who met or exceeded ELA expectations were 36.6 percentage points higher than the state average.

Analyzing cohorts of students year after year also reveals a positive trend. For example, the cohort of students who met or exceeded NJSLA expectations on their fifth-grade ELA assessment in 2022 totaled 67.2 percent. These same students, now in the seventh grade, took the sixth-grade ELA assessment in the spring 2023, and an impressive 85.6 percent of them met or exceeded expectations.

Our success is not the result of chance, but a fruit of implementing differentiated learning strategies. Over the past few years, we accelerated our commitment to providing students with highly tailored and individualized learning experiences to meet their unique needs.

We introduced Data-Driven Instructional periods (DDI) and harnessed the power of the Linkit! platform to pinpoint specific areas that require attention. The Linkit! progress monitoring tool helps identify students in need of extra support or those who can benefit from enrichment opportunities. Students advance to the next set of standards after mastering each benchmark. We have also increased our tiered support offerings at Holdrum Middle School and bolstered our Basic Skills programs for elementary and middle school classes. Our dedicated educators and administrators have worked alongside educational consultants to develop an even higher level of expertise. We are genuinely proud of our students' progress, and welcome you to view the full presentation on standardized and internal assessment data on our [YouTube channel](#).

We are eager to share more about the exciting developments in our classrooms at parent-teacher conferences, which begin Nov. 14.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in providing the best education for our students. We look forward to the bright future that awaits us.



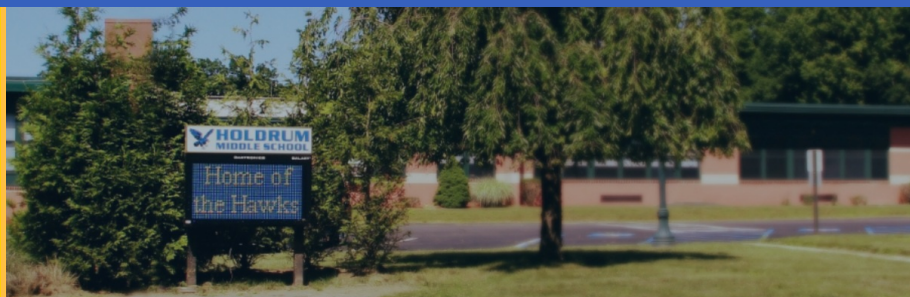
Sincerely,
Melissa Signore
Superintendent of Schools

INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

River Vale schools recently celebrated Week of Respect. Students from each school participated in activities and lessons about the importance of supporting, listening to, and respecting others. Observing the Week of Respect aligns with our schools' increased focus on creating a positive, inclusive culture. We love giving our students opportunities to display our district's values, especially through fun, educational experiences!



STRONG SCHOOLS STATUS



Holdrum Middle School is now designed to meet students' 21st-century learning needs. Watch the video to see before-and-after photos and the school's bright new look!

[*Holdrum Middle School completed renovation video*](#)



DATES TO REMEMBER



November 9-10
SCHOOLS CLOSED/NJEA Convention

November 14-16
Teacher/Parent Conferences

November 22
One-Session Day

November 23-24
SCHOOLS CLOSED/Thanksgiving Holiday



On behalf of all of us in the River Vale School District we wish you a wonderful holiday filled with warmth and happiness. We sincerely hope you enjoy this special time with friends and family.



DISTRICT PTA UPDATE

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the NEW River Vale PTA Website for updated PTA information.

- PTA Membership information
- PTA meeting schedule
- Fundraisers
- PTA Events
- Lunch Reminders
- Important Upcoming Dates

Don't forget to like and follow the [River Vale PTA Facebook](#) page for updates.



FOLLOW US!



**ROBERGE
ELEMENTARY**

**WOODSIDE
ELEMENTARY**



**HOLDRUM
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



RIVER VALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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