



Summer Update from the Superintendent

July 20, 2018

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

I hope everyone is having a great summer!

July has been an exciting time in the district as we prepare for the upcoming school-year. This includes focusing on our goal of enhancing students' critical/creative thinking skills, thereby connecting to the "collaborative innovator" and "problem seeker and solution maker" parts to the *Portrait of a Graduate*, and preparing to implement the first year of a new K-8 mathematics curriculum that was developed with our regional partners and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District. This exciting new curriculum supports the idea that every child can be successful at math by making connections, engaging in meaningful conversations, persevering through complex problems, and interacting flexibly with numbers in a rigorous way.

To support this, nearly 40 staff members attended this year's annual Summer Ed. Tech Camp where we focused on best-practices for critical/creative thinking in the classroom, and teachers received professional development from our consultant group, Metamorphosis Math, to aid in the implementation of our new math curriculum.

I'm also pleased to announce that the district has been selected to present on our *Portrait of a Graduate* at this year's upcoming New Jersey School Boards Convention in October! This annual event is the largest gathering of school boards in the state, and as the first New Jersey district to create a *Portrait of a Graduate*, this represents a great opportunity to share our innovative collective vision with other school districts so they may benefit from learning more about how River Vale is preparing students for the world in front of them, not the one behind them.

Finally, we've begun upgrading the Holdrum Media Center, Roberge "Collaboratory," and Roberge playground, similar to what was done at Woodside last summer, and look forward to sharing more about these projects as we start the school-year!

In addition to our Board of Education meeting on August 28th, our administrative team is here throughout the summer, so please always feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you might have.

We thank you for your ongoing support of our schools, look forward to seeing you and your children in September, and hope everyone is having a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Rory McCourt, Superintendent of Schools