

# MINISINK VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*We teach someone you love.*



## ***Transportation Reminders***

- Please be at the bus stop 5-7 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time in the morning.
- Kindergarten students will NOT be dropped off in the afternoon unless a parent or other authorized person is present at the bus stop.
- The school district does not honor bus passes for occasional events and personal schedules (i.e., scout meetings, birthday parties, music lessons, babysitting, play dates, etc.) Please plan ahead to make necessary arrangements.

## ***Parent Teacher Organization***

The Minisink Valley Parent Teacher Organization is a welcome partner in all of our schools. The PTO provides many opportunities for involvement in our schools. Past programs have included Preschool Story Hour, 1000 Book Reading Program, book fairs, field days, assemblies and movie nights. The PTO also awards several scholarships to graduating seniors. The PTO welcomes your membership and participation. Look for information in building newsletters and on our website, as well as at our open houses in September.

**SCHOOL OPENS**  
***Thursday, September 2***

*August 2010*

This spring and summer has seen much activity on our campus and in our buildings as renovations continue through Phases II and III of our EXCEL project. Our community has seen a beautiful enhancement to its high school auditorium, completed mid-winter, as new seating and lighting installation provided for magnificent productions of our spring musical and chorus and band concerts amid much additional comfort for our audiences. Immediately following a beautiful graduation ceremony for the Outstanding Class of 2010 on June 25, work began to install energy efficient windows and new classroom ventilators in various parts of the high school, and mount new, fully automated bleachers and dividing doors in its gymnasium. New boilers have been installed, along with updates to components of the heating system in the older part of the facility. When completed, student safety will also be significantly enhanced with new security hardware for entrance doors, security cameras throughout the facility, and a new fire alarm system.

Inside the elementary/intermediate building, new heating, air ventilation, electrical and plumbing upgrades have been proceeding. Numerous classrooms have been renovated with new ventilation systems and boiler replacement has been completed for the physical plant. In addition, upgrading classroom lighting, renovations to the nurse's station, and remodeling to both cafeterias is nearing completion at this writing. When finished, student safety will also be enhanced with a new state-of-the-art public address and fire alarm system for this facility.

Outside, athletic fields at the Minisink campus have undergone major expansion and will serve to benefit our outstanding scholastic and community sports programs for years to come.

Lastly, we are awaiting State Education Department approval on our architectural plans for rebuilding the bus garage. As soon as these are released, we will begin moving forward with that process. We will provide more information as it becomes available both on our website and in the next newsletter.

Dear Community Members,

I hope that you and your family members are having a safe, enjoyable and relaxing summer. Whether we have children still in school or not, one of the benefits we derive from the school break during summertime is that it offers each of us opportunity to experience a different perspective on our daily living during the months of July and August. Just knowing that summer is regarded in our culture as a period where many folks take some time off, frequently brings a pause to all of us to reflect and re-group as we make ready to head into the fall season.

In a sense, that is exactly what happens in our schools during the summer time too. As we prepare for a new school year, we take a look back to view our accomplishments and attempt to improve upon the activities and processes that led to them so we can reach even greater achievement in the next cycle. We make preparations to address requirements, develop plans for new initiatives, and also examine our failures in order to learn from our mistakes. We then recommit to worthy objectives, both those on-going and newly identified ones, with improved vision and planning to bring about success.

As your new superintendent, this is my focus. I am committed to keeping Minisink Valley the outstanding school district it has always been, and nurturing its potential for the increased excellence that I know lies within its attributes. Those attributes are found mainly in its people – the community members, the students, the school board members, and the employees – and I look forward to working with all of you in this endeavor. Challenges will arise. We faced many last year; we will face others in this coming year. As always, some will be easier to overcome than others. However, this district is outstanding, not because of the ease with which it attains its achievements, but because of the people who are a part of it. We must remember, regardless the issues, schools are directly attached to their communities, and communities to their schools. This is how it should be, and nowhere has this been more true, I think, than here at Minisink Valley. That is what has always been, I believe, the foundational strength of our school district, and as such, circulates back as an overall benefit to our community. Yes, we know we are in difficult times. I anticipate we are going to be faced with difficult challenges and likely difficult decisions that will have to be made in response to them. Nevertheless, working together in an atmosphere of responsibility and trust on the part of all, I am without doubt we will continue to succeed and this Minisink Valley School District will continue to brightly shine.

Sincerely,

Jack Latini,  
Superintendent of Schools



## Minisink Valley CSD 2010- 2011 Student Calendar

### September

- 1 School Closed - Supt's Conf. Day
- 2 First Day of School for Students
- 6 School Closed - Labor Day
- 9 School Closed - Rosh Hashanah

### October

- 11 School Closed - Columbus Day

### November

- 2 School Closed - Supt's Conf. Day
- 11 School Closed - Veteran's Day
- 19 ½ Conf. Day
- 24 School Closed - Conference Day
- 25-26 School Closed - Thanksgiving

### December

- 3 ½ Conf. Day
- 23-31 School Closed - Winter Recess
- 25 School Closed - Christmas Day

### January

- 1 School Closed - New Year's Day
- 17 School Closed - Dr. M. L. King Day
- 25-28 Regents Exams *Tentative*

### February

- 21-25 School Closed - Presidents' Week

### March

- 25 School Closed - Conference Day

### April

- 18-22 School Closed - Spring Recess

### May

- 27-30 School Closed - Memorial Wknd.

### June

- 15-24 Regents Exams *Tentative*
- 24 Rating Day
- 24 Last Day / HS Graduation

## OPEN HOUSES

Otisville Elementary  
Grades K-2 - Thurs., Sept. 16, 6:00 PM  
Grades 3-5 - Thurs., Sept. 23, 6:00 PM

Minisink Elementary  
Thurs., Sept. 16, 6:00 PM

Intermediate School  
Thurs., Sept. 23, 6:00 PM

Middle School  
Grade 6 - Wed., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM  
Grades 7/8 - Wed., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM

High School  
Thurs., Sept. 30, 6:30 PM

## 2010-2011 School Board Meetings

Middle School Room 108 - 8:00 PM

- July 8, 22
- Aug. 5, 19
- Sept. 2, 16
- Oct. 7, 21
- Nov. 4, 18
- Dec. 2, 16
- Jan. 6, 20
- Feb. 3, 17
- March 10, 24
- April 14
- May 5, 19
- June 2, 16

## *Contact Us*

Good communication between home, school and community is important. Our automated system means that you will be able to leave voice mail messages after hours. These will be retrieved and answered promptly.

|                               |                     |                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Otisville Elem. School</b> | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5850</b> |
| <b>MV Elementary School</b>   | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5270</b> |
| <b>MV Intermediate School</b> | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5250</b> |
| <b>MV Middle School</b>       | <b>7am - 3:30pm</b> | <b>355-5200</b> |
| <b>MV High School</b>         | <b>7am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5150</b> |
| <b>Transportation</b>         | <b>7am - 4:30pm</b> | <b>355-5140</b> |
| <b>Pupil Personnel</b>        | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5105</b> |
| <b>Business Office</b>        | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5120</b> |
| <b>Personnel Office</b>       | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5810</b> |
| <b>Central Admin.</b>         | <b>8am - 4pm</b>    | <b>355-5100</b> |

**Minisink Valley CSD**

P.O. Box 217, Rte. 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

**Board of Education**

Ethel Crow, *President*, Robert Prokopchak, *Vice-president*  
William Cooper, Joseph Flaherty, Alfred Gibbs, Gina Mozilo,  
Catherine Prezioso, Paul Rickard, Tracy Sutera

**Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. John P. Latini

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**Newsletter**  
Debbie Roda

***School Tax and Contingent Budget Information***

The school tax levy represents the portion of the school budget that the community contributes after state aid and local revenues are applied. For the first time in many years, the Minisink Valley Central School District is operating under a contingency budget after the defeat for the Proposed Budget on June 15, 2010. Under a contingency budget, the school district must provide all of the necessary services legally required to operate and maintain the school buildings and the educational program for the children, preserve the property of the district and ensure the health and safety of students and staff. Under a contingency budget the school district must charge organizations for the use of its facilities. For those wishing to use the school facilities this year, those charges are listed on the school district website at [www.minisink.com](http://www.minisink.com).

Even though we will be operating a contingency budget, because of a severe cut in State Aid for 2010-11, we are still projecting a small tax levy increase. Near the end of August, when the district establishes the final tax levy amount needed to support our contingency budget, the state-calculated equalization rates will be applied to determine how the levy is dispersed among our six component townships. To the extent that true market value of properties across the district changes proportionally from the prior year, the projected average tax rate increase will affect each of our townships equally. If, however, changes in market value vary significantly between townships, then some towns will carry a greater share of the increase, while other towns will have tax rate changes that are lower than the projected average.

***School tax bills will be mailed at the beginning of September.  
The collection schedule is as follows: (see times/dates on tax bill)***

*Before October 30:*

September 1-30 May be paid in person or by mail  
October 1-30 May be paid in person or by mail  
(2% penalty added to bill)

*After October 30, contact:*

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Commissioner of Finance | Sullivan County Treasurer |
| 255 Main Street         | 100 North Street          |
| Goshen, NY 10924        | Monticello, NY 12701      |
| (Orange County)         | (Sullivan County)         |

***MV Teachers' Association Craft Fair***

Last year the Minisink Valley Teachers' Association awarded \$20,000 in student scholarships to the class of 2010. Although the M.V.T.A. remains committed to raising funds for student scholarships, there will not be an M.V.T.A. Craft Fair this fall. Look for our two other fundraisers, the M.V.T.A. Golf Outing this fall and the M.V.T.A. Tricky Tray next spring. Thank you Community Members, Faculty and Staff for supporting these important fundraisers!