

BACK TO SCHOOL

Be in the know...

- Lunch Menus
- Board Policies
- Superintendent's Blog
- Daily Announcements
- Bi-Weekly Podcasts
- Contact Information
- Weekly News Items
- And much more...

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your home page.**

Visitors To School

For the ongoing safety of our students, visitors to our schools will have to show identification when they sign in. Please have picture ID ready.

2007-08 School Board Meetings

Middle School - Board Room - 8:00 PM

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| • July 12, 26 | • Jan. 10, 24 |
| • Aug. 9, 23 | • Feb. 14, 28 |
| • Sept. 6, 20 | • Mar. 13, 27 |
| • Oct. 4, 18 | • Apr. 10, 24 |
| • Nov. 8, 29 | • May 8, 22 |
| • Dec. 13 | • June 5, 19 |

Congratulations

to the faculty, staff, administration and students of the Minisink Valley Intermediate School for being named a "high-achieving, gap-closing school" by New York State.

**FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL
SEPT. 5**



New Otisville Elementary School

If you've had the opportunity to travel Mount Hope Road or Finchville Turnpike this summer, then you've seen the progress being made on the new elementary school in Otisville. The steel has framed the school, and masons, plumbers, electricians, roofers, and carpenters are hard at work providing the necessary infrastructure. We expect to be fully enclosed later this fall so that the detail work that will keep us on schedule can commence. This work is proceeding under the close supervision of our construction manager, Mr. Nick Lopez of *The Thomas Group*.



Minisink Valley CSD

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

Board of Education

Ethel Crow, *President*, Gina Richichi, *Vice President*

John M. Lenane, Michelle McDonald, Shawn O'Connor, Robert Prokopchak, Paul Rickard, Joan Romanyschyn, Victor Vignola

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martha Murray

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**Newsletter
Debbie Roda**

From the Superintendent's Desk

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Summer is a great time to relax, to spend time with family and friends, and to get caught up on things we could not finish during the school year. It's also a time to reflect on the school year just ended and to consider ways we might be able to improve in the school year ahead. The quiet, reflective time is over and we are ready and eager to welcome our students on Wednesday, September 5, 2007.

Literacy will remain a primary focus for our students. It is at the heart of everything we do, including math and science. We encourage you to read to your children every day when they are young, and then to help them set aside time to read by themselves as they grow older. Finding time to read yourself would be the finest example of continued learning you could demonstrate.

As a faculty, we will be engaging in two important projects this year – strategic planning and curriculum mapping. The strategic planning will help us identify key initiatives we want to pursue in the next several years, and the curriculum mapping will ensure that all of our students receive strong and consistent instruction following the New York State Learning Standards. Both of these projects will be chronicled on our website, www.minisink.com. Please watch for updates.

We will challenge ourselves this year to find better ways to communicate with you, the parents. We are establishing a system of “instant communication” called *School Messenger*, which will allow us to reach all parents by phone simultaneously. This will be important in an emergency and convenient to help keep you informed. Parents will also have the option of signing up for e-mails from the district and/or your child's individual school. Please watch our website www.minisink.com for further instructions.

We look forward to seeing our students and their parents in September. You'll notice some changes on the Route 6 campus when you return. There are new sidewalks and handicapped accessible entry ways in front of the intermediate/elementary school building. The back of the intermediate school has been reconfigured to provide for a safe place for parents who choose to drop their students off in the morning. Traffic to the middle school has been rerouted to the left of the parking lot to keep pedestrians safe and keep traffic moving.

Every school year brings its challenges. This year will be no different. As we anxiously await the first day of school, let us promise to work together to turn those challenges into opportunities to grow and to improve. I look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray
Superintendent of Schools



Congratulations High School Business Department

We received word in June that our high school business department was named Department of the Year for Region 3 by the New York State Education Department. Region 3 is made up of all the schools in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties.

This honor was accorded our business department because of the excellent record it has in getting students ready for college business majors - the number one major of students attending college in the United States. Our courses, our interdisciplinary projects, and a very active Future Business Leaders of America organization (FBLA) were all instrumental in Minisink receiving this award.

Pictured here are the teachers who earned this honor -

**Seth Johnson
Chip Jaeger
RoseMarie Cricchio
(Department Chair) and
David Telgheder.**

Congratulations to these teachers and their students.

School Tax Levy Information

The school tax levy represents the portion of the school budget that the community contributes after state aid and local revenues are factored in. The budget approved by voters last May represents an increase of just under nine percent in spending over the prior school year. Nearly one-third of the increase, or \$2 million, is allocated for permanent financing for the new Otisville School and the on-going improvements to our MV Elementary/Intermediate School and roadways on our Route 6 campus. The budget will also fund new instructional programs that use emerging technology, new school buses and some additional staffing in response to increased student enrollment, instructional support and safety initiatives.

Based on our most current assessment data, we project that the average tax rate increase will be approximately 4.25%. This is lower than the 5% range estimated at the time of the budget vote. Near the end of August, when the district establishes the final tax levy amount needed to meet our budget, we must apply the state-calculated equalization rates to determine how this amount 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 4.25% 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:

Sept. 1-Oct . 2	Can be paid in person or by mail
Oct. 3-Oct. 31	Can be paid in person or by mail (2% penalty added to bill)
Nov. 1-15	By mail only to:

*Commissioner of Finance
124 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924*

Middle Class STAR Notifications for Orange County Residents to be Mailed in September

As you may remember, enacted within the 2007-08 Legislative Budget, was a new Middle Class STAR Rebate Program. This program is available to homeowners who receive the basic STAR exemption on their property tax bills and to homeowners who are senior citizens 65+ years or older and receive an enhanced STAR exemption on their property tax bills. In both cases, rebate amounts are based on a combination of factors, including tax rates for school districts, and the city, village, or town in which the property is located.

Starting on July 16th, notifications from the New York State Department of Tax and Finance were mailed to homeowners alerting them of this program and describing the necessary steps they need to take to apply and receive their rebates. We've learned that Orange County residents will be receiving their notifications with application instructions in September. The application deadline is November 3. More information can be found online at <http://www.tax.state.ny.us/star/2007/> or by calling the New York State Department of Tax and Finance at 1-877-6-STAR-NY / (1-877-678-2769).

MVCSD PTO

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 and makes a positive difference for our students. They welcome your membership and participation. Look for information in newsletters and on the website, as well as at the open houses in the fall. Sue Pavlick is the PTO President for the 2007 - 2008 school year.

MV Teachers' Association Craft Fair

Crafts, Food, & Fun
Saturday, October 27, 2007
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Minisink Valley High School Gym

*“We're crafting scholarships for our Minisink kids!”
All proceeds go to the
Minisink Valley Teachers' Scholarship Fund.*

2007-08 Student Calendar

September	03	School Closed – Labor Day
	04	School Closed - Supt's Conf.
	05	First Day of School for Students
	12	Early Dismissal Drill
	13	School Closed - Rosh Hashanah
October	08	School Closed – Columbus Day
	19	½ Conference Day
November	06	School Closed – Supt's Conf. Day
	12	School Closed – Veterans' Day
	16	½ Conference Day
	21	School Closed – Conf. Day
	22-23	School Closed – Thanksgiving
	30	½ Conference Day
December	14	½ Conference Day
	24-31	School Closed – Winter Recess
January	01	School Closed – New Year's Day
	21	School Closed – M. L. King Day
	22-25	Regents - Tentative
February	08	School Closed – Conf. Day
	15-19	School Closed – Pres. Weekend
March	20-24	School Closed – Spring Recess
	31	School Closed – Conf. Day
April	11	½ Conference Day
	21-25	School Closed – Spring Recess
May	26	School Closed – Memorial Day
June	17-25	Regents - Tentative
	26	Rating Day
	27	Last Day HS Graduation

www.minisink.com

OPEN HOUSES

Otisville Elementary
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6:30 PM

Minisink Elementary
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6:45 PM

Intermediate School
Monday, Sept. 17, 6:00 PM

Middle School
Grade 6 - Tuesday, Sept. 18, 7:00 PM
**Grades 7/8 - Wednesday, Sept. 26,
7:00 PM**

High School
Thursday, Sept. 27, 7:00 PM

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.

Otisville Elem. School	8am - 4pm	355-5850
MV Elementary School	8am - 4pm	355-5270
MV Intermediate School	8am - 4pm	355-5250
MV Middle School	7am - 3:30pm	355-5200
MV High School	7am - 4pm	355-5150
Transportation	7am - 4:30pm	355-5140
Pupil Personnel	8am - 4pm	355-5105
Business Office	8am - 4pm	355-5120
Personnel Office	8am - 4pm	355-5810
Central Admin.	8am - 4pm	355-5110