



Minisink Valley CSD

We teach someone you love

Concert Dates

Dec. 5 - 7:00 PM -- (snowdate 12/7)
Otisville Grade 3 Chorus Concert

Dec. 6 - 7:00 PM -- (snowdate 12/12)
Middle School Chorus Concert

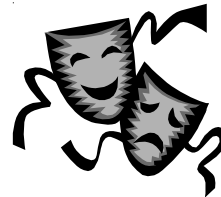
Dec. 13 - 6:30/7:45 PM -- (snowdate 12/19)
Intermediate School Grades 4/5 Chorus Concert

Dec. 14 - 7:30 PM -- (snowdate 12/15)
High School Holiday Concert

Dec. 20 - 7:00 PM --(snowdate 12/21)
Middle School Band Concert

Jan. 24 - 6:30/7:45 PM --(snowdate 1/25)
Intermediate Band Concert

High School Drama Production



Neil Simon's *Fools*
Nov. 3, 4, 5 -- 7:30 PM
High School Auditorium

Snow Closings / Delays Radio Announcements

FM Stations: 92.1, 92.7, 92.9, 93.3, 94.3, 96.1, 96.7, 96.9, 97.3, 97.7, 99.3, 100.7, 101.5, 102.3, 103.1, 103.7, 104.7, 106.1, 106.3, and 107.3.

AM Stations: 920, 1340, 1360, 1370, 1390, 1420, 1450, and 1490.

School Board Recognition Week

Board of Education
Meeting Dates
8:00 PM
held in the
Central Office
Board Room

Nov. 3, 17
Dec. 8, 22
Jan. 12, 26
Feb. 9, 23
March 9, 23
April 6, 27
May 4, 18
June 1, 15

The week of October 24 has been designated by Governor Pataki as *School Board Recognition Week*. Our school board members will be honored at a reception during our November 3 meeting. Listed below are some facts about this uniquely American institution:

- ◆ A school board member in New York State serves as a state official. Most board members, except for those in the very largest cities, receive no pay for their service except the satisfaction that comes from rendering an indispensable public service.

- ◆ By law, board of education members must be qualified voters in the school district, must be able to read or write, must be residents of their districts for one year before the election, and cannot be employed by the board on which they serve.

- ◆ Our nine board members each serve five-year terms, which are staggered so all board positions are never open at the same time.

If you would like more information about how to become a member of the board of education, please contact the district clerk, Nancy Szymkowicz, at 355-5115.



(standing) Shawn O'Connor, Victor Vignola, Michael Sauchuk, Tom Kiselak, Tracy Sutera,
(seated) President John Lenane, Gina Richichi, Michelle McDonald, and Vice-president Wayne Hawkins.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Our children have had a very positive start to the school year. They are working hard in their studies and playing hard in their extracurricular activities. This year presents the new challenge of state assessments for all students in grades three through eight. Our faculty and staff are preparing diligently for these tests. Our students will be ready. However, we believe that receiving a good education is about more than just doing well on state assessments. Yes, we want our students to get the basics of reading, math, science, and social studies. But we also want them to lean forward in their seats because school is interesting and exciting. To this end, teachers work hard to prepare lessons that our students will find engaging.

Along with academic achievement, Minisink Valley focuses on our children's safety. New dismissal procedures have been set in place for the fifteen hundred K-5 students who leave the Route 6 schools each afternoon. They either get on one of our buses for a ride home or they are released directly to a parent at the end of the day. In addition, all parents have received a Code of Conduct which helps set the parameters for student conduct and behavior while in classes, on buses, or during extracurricular activities. This code is a part of the student handbook given to all students in the middle school and the high school, as well.

We look forward to a productive and exciting year. Please join us on campus for concerts, plays, athletic contests, and community events. Please come and see our students at their very best. The power of the school, the family, and the community working together will make the difference in the development of bright, capable and responsible young people we will be proud to claim as our own.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray
Superintendent of Schools



No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Under this federal law, school districts must ensure that all teachers are highly qualified, that is, certified to teach their particular subject areas. If you have questions about a teacher's certification, please contact Mr. Brian Monahan, director of personnel, at 355-5810.

School Tax Reform

Your board of education has joined the growing number of groups across New York State calling for a change in the manner in which we pay for our public schools. We will be looking at various reform proposals and adding our voice to the chorus of those demanding reform.

Senator Bonacic held a hearing in Kingston, NY on September 29, 2005 that was attended by John Lenane, president of the board, and Dr. Martha Murray, superintendent of schools. The Senator answered questions about a bill he is proposing that is a combination of real property tax and income tax. If you'd like more information about this bill, please visit www.senatorbonacic.com and look for his questions and answers on the school tax reform bill #164.



PTO Safety Night

On Wednesday, November 16, the Minisink Valley PTO will sponsor the second annual Safety Night in our intermediate school. The program is for all the parents in our district and workshop topics will appeal to parents of children of various ages. Among the topics to be presented are Internet Safety, Sexual Harassment, Drug Awareness, Teen Depression, Childhood Depression, and Warning Signs for Parents of Teens. The evening will follow this schedule:

- 6:00 – 6:30 Registration
- 6:30 – 7:30 Workshop Session I
- 7:30 – 8:00 Coffee and Refreshments
- 8:00 – 9:00 Workshop Session II

Students will be bringing home information or you may call the PTO coordinator of this event, Allison Wilbur, at 386-4077.



Backpacks for Kids

We are proud of the efforts and results of our intermediate school students who decided to jump in and help the victims of the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region of the country. Hearing that many students have taken refuge in the Dallas, Texas area, fourth grade teacher Amy Peluso and principal Joyce Memmelaar have organized a program called "Backpacks for Kids." In just two short weeks, students in grades 3-5 collected 105 backpacks filled with school supplies and other items that would appeal to school-age children. In addition, the school collected 20 boxes filled with supplies to send to the hurricane victims. A special thank you goes to all of the parents who helped our students learn this important lesson in caring for others.

Thank You! ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program for its two \$500 grant awards.



Preschoolers listen to a story read by Mrs. Wendy Fisher.

Preschool Story Hour

Nov. 22, Jan. 10, 24

10:00 AM

central administration

board room

Route 6 Campus

Oct. 17, Jan. 19

2:15 PM

Otisville Elementary

As Minisink Turns...50

A Golden Jubilee history book, written in large part by Drew Beckel, our Jubilee historian, is still available for purchase.

If you would like to purchase a book, stop by the central office and pick up a copy for \$30 or send a check or money order for \$35 (includes postage and handling) made payable to MVHS to Minisink Valley CSD, Attn: Debbie Roda, PO Box 217, Slate Hill, NY 10973.



The Minisink Valley School District is fortunate to be one of five school districts in Orange County to have a New York State Trooper from Troop F as its school resource officer. This year, Trooper Nicole Eli is working with our students and our community. Trooper Eli is a police officer on active duty and not a security guard. She brings with her each day the power to enforce the laws of New York State, including those that govern traffic, parking and the safe operation of motor vehicles. She retains the power to arrest, to issue summons and to ticket while on school property. She works closely with school personnel to help provide a safe school and campus environment that is conducive to learning. We welcome Trooper Eli to our school community.

Attendance Reminders

Good attendance is tied directly to strong academic achievement. Students who come to school every day learn more and are more successful than students with poor attendance records. It is the policy of the Minisink Valley School District that students attend school on time for the maximum number of days and instructional periods possible. We recognize the following as legal excuses for student absence, each of which must be verified by the student’s parent or guardian:

- ⊗ Personal illness
- ⊗ Family emergency
- ⊗ Death in the immediate family
- ⊗ Religious observance
- ⊗ Required attendance in court
- ⊗ Approved school-sponsored activities, including field trips, interscholastic athletics, musical and other competitions
- ⊗ Directed or authorized presence at the administrative office or nurse’s office
- ⊗ Quarantine
- ⊗ Out of school suspension
- ⊗ Emergency dental and medical appointments
- ⊗ Military obligations
- ⊗ College visitations (for juniors and seniors), with the prior knowledge and approval of parents and counselors, for a reasonable number of days in the school year.

Minisink Valley CSD

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

Board of Education

John M. Lenane, *President*
Wayne Hawkins, *Vice President*
Tom Kiselak
Michelle McDonald
Shawn O’Connor
Gina Richichi
Michael Sauchuk
Tracy Sutura
Victor Vignola

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martha Murray

“Home of the Warriors”

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**TO: Local Resident
or Boxholder**

Newsletter

Debbie Roda

Visit us at www.minisink.com

MINISINK VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Box 217 Route 6 - Slate Hill, New York 10973
845-355-5110

NOTICE

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1975 (FERPA) provides access to records, files, documents and other materials which contain information directly relating to a student. All parents/guardians of students under 18 years of age and students 18 years of age or older enrolled in a post-secondary school have the following rights under FERPA:

1. To inspect and review the student's educational records
2. To be provided, on request, with a copy of all or part of the student's educational records
3. To exercise limited control over other people's access to the student's educational records
4. To designate, in writing, a representative who will inspect, review or copy such records
5. To request and receive from the District a reasonable explanation of information contained in the student's educational records
6. To challenge the contents of the student's educational records and to seek to correct the student's educational records, by contacting the building principal and, if the situation is not satisfactorily remedied, by requesting a hearing with the Superintendent of Schools
7. To report violations of FERPA to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
8. To obtain copies of the Student Records policy and regulations at the Office of the District Clerk

Records Access Officer
Brian Monahan, Director of Personnel

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Minisink Valley Central School district does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, creed, color, national origin, marital status, or disability in educational programming activities that it offers. This nondiscriminatory policy includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees, pay and benefits, access by students to educational programs, course offerings and activities.

Title IX and Section 504 Compliance

The Minisink Valley Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, marital status or disability. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the Minisink Valley Central School District, Box 217, Slate Hill, New York 10973 Telephone Number 845-355-5110. Information and complaint procedures will be provided to any citizen, student or employee who feels that his or her rights under Title IX or Section 504 may have been violated by the District or its officials.

Title IX Coordinator
Brian Monahan, Director of Personnel

Section 504 Coordinator
Larry Daley, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

In accordance with Federal Regulations, Minisink Valley Central School District has developed a management plan for any asbestos-containing materials located within its facilities. This plan locates the asbestos in each building, documents response actions, and provides an ongoing operations and maintenance plan to safely manage the asbestos-containing materials. Every six months, a visual surveillance of the asbestos-containing materials is completed by Minisink Valley Central School District personnel. In 2001, a re-inspection of the facilities was administered by the Orange-Ulster BOCES Risk Management Department. Documentation for the surveillance and re-inspection is available in the Management Plan. This plan is accessible for inspection by the public in the Central Administrative Offices of Minisink Valley Central School District.

Minisink Valley PTO

“enhancing every child’s educational experience”

Once again, we thank you for becoming a member of the PTO. With your support, our hard working volunteers are able to bring programs, events and othr enrichments to the student of the district.

Your \$5.00 membership is divided as follows:

- One dollar to the Executive Board which allows us to do programs like mini-grants, pre-school story time, and contribute to Minisink Cares, Project Graduation, etc.
- Four dollars is divided among the buildings in which you have children or where you work. If you are a faculty/staff member with out children in the district, the entire \$4.00 stays in your building.

Becoming a PTO member entitles you to be a voting member. We encourage everyone to attend PTO meetings and have your voice herad. We want your input.

PTO Building Meetings

Otisville Elementary	Nov. 16, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, April 5, May 17, June 14 7:00 PM -- Otisville Elementary
Minisink Elementary	Nov. 16, *Feb. 15, Mar. 15, April 11, May 17 7:00 PM -- Minisink Elementary Large Cafeteria <i>*Note: Feb. 15 meeting will be at 2:00 PM in the board room</i>
Intermediate School	Dates vary - please check with the main office 355-5250.
Middle School	Dates vary - please check with the main office 355-5200.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Dues \$5.00 per family
(Please return form to any of the main offices.)

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Home Address:

Home Phone Number:

Circle school(s) which your child(ren) attend and/or what building you work in:

Otisville Elem.

MV Elem.

MV Intermediate

MV Middle School

MV High School