

Minisink Valley Central School

We teach someone you love.

Celebrating the Past...

The one-room schoolhouses in the area could no longer adequately prepare students for an ever-changing world. The early rural schools only provided an education through eighth grade. This area contracted the education of high school students to Port Jervis, Middletown, Otisville, and Goshen. Students from Unionville rode a gasoline driven railroad "bus" affectionately known as the "Toonesville Trolley" to Middletown High School.

It was time to consider centralization. By the early 1950's, local residents tackled the New York State Education Department bureaucracy to convince it to allow the townships of Minisink, Greenville and Wawayanda to consolidate and centralize their school districts. Diligent, hardworking, influential personalities in this group included Dr. Frank Myers and his wife Margaret, Francis and Doris Remy, Alice Slockbower, Ruth Auberger and Edgar Schriber, the school superintendent for western Orange County. The driving force for centralization was Josephine Horan who became the spokesperson at meetings held in firehouses, homes and local schools.

Finally, on June 30, 1955, the voters of the Minisink Valley area voted to end the era of the one-room schoolhouse by a vote of 808 to 274. On that same evening, those who were still at the polls, elected the first board of education. Robert Runnalls served as its first president.

On August 23, 1955, Albert C. Truman was chosen as the first district principal (now called superintendent). Plans were drawn up for a district school. At the time, there were only 532 students of school age living in the enlarged district.

Minisink was on its way... One Greenville resident observed, "They'll never fill a new school."

Drew Beckel, Golden Jubilee Historian



Preparing for the Future...

Fifty years later, we stand on the edge of the future and all the promise that it holds. Our board of education has worked for over a year to address the demands that growth places on our district. We're excited to announce that at their meeting of September 30, the board approved the following motions:

- To accept the donation of 46 acres of land from the Town of Mount Hope with the option of the town taking over the present elementary school building at some future date. The district is looking to construct a new elementary school at the donated site.
- To purchase a 150-acre piece of property along Route 6 in the Town of Greenville for 2.2 million dollars for a future campus.

The construction of a new elementary school in Otisville and the purchase of land in the Town of Greenville are contingent upon voter approval. A referendum will be put before the voters of the district some time in 2005. The district is grateful to the Town of Mount Hope for its generosity in working with the district to meet the needs of our students. An informational meeting addressing both proposals will take place on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:00 PM in the Otisville School gymnasium.

As did their predecessors fifty years earlier, this board of education continues to prepare for the future of Minisink Valley's children and its children's children.

***Informational Meeting
October 27, 2004 - 7:00PM
Otisville Gymnasium***

From the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Minisink Valley is dedicated to ensuring that our students are successful. While we have always held high expectations for our students, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has set new standards in English Language Arts and mathematics for our students to meet.

Last month, New York State released a report on the progress our schools are making toward achieving proficiency for 100 percent of our students under NCLB. The report identified whether schools have made “adequate yearly progress” (AYP) – a simple yes or no grade based on a complex set of measurements. To make AYP, each school in the district must achieve target scores in the areas of test participation and performance measured across several subgroups of students (grouped by such categories as race, language proficiency, and disability). In addition, schools must meet graduation rates and attendance targets. If just one subgroup misses just one target, an entire school does not make AYP.

Our intermediate school and our middle school have been put on a list of schools that need improvement based on the performance of our students with disabilities on the fourth grade and eighth grade English Language Arts exam given in January 2004. Overall, the performance of students in both schools on this exam exceeded the state target. Both the intermediate school and the middle school met or exceeded state target points on the mathematics tests given in grades 4 and 8.

AYP is an all or nothing concept, but student achievement is not. Academic success is measured in many ways, including classroom tests, teacher observations, report cards, homework and standardized tests. But AYP focuses only on state tests.

We are firmly committed to achieving our goal of success for every child, and we recognize that we must continually improve. We are currently making changes in our program to help all of our students meet with success on the state exams. Our schools have outstanding principals, teachers and support staff who regularly update their skills and participate in training to help them meet the needs of all students.

We encourage you to join us in addressing our challenges and applauding the fine work students and staff are doing throughout the district. As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions and involvement in our schools and the challenges we face.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray
Superintendent of Schools

GED PROGRAM

Any district resident interested in enrolling in our GED preparation program is asked to contact Mrs. Ruth Casmus at 355-5150. Classes meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM as part of our Alternative Evening High School. We welcome your participation.

SNOW CLOSINGS/DELAYS RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS

FM Stations: 92.1, 92.7, 92.9, 93.3, 94.3, 96.1, 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, and 1450.

TV Station: WRNN Channel 19 or 62

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB)

Under this federal law, school districts must ensure that all teachers are highly qualified, that is, certified to teach in their particular subject areas. We are pleased to report that all the teachers in Minisink Valley are appropriately certified. If you would like more information, contact Mr. Brian Monahan, Director of Personnel, at 355-5810.



SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK
 The week of October 25 has been designated by Governor Pataki as *School Board Recognition Week*. Our school board members will be honored at a reception during our November 4 meeting. Did you know that school board members serve as volunteers with no monetary compensation? We appreciate the time that our dedicated board members spend on behalf of our students and our community. Members of the board of education are (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.

Minisink Valley Hall of Fame

As part of our Golden Jubilee celebration to be held in 2005, Minisink Valley High School will be creating an Alumni Hall of Fame. All alumni who have used their Minisink degrees as a springboard to even greater successes in their professional lives will be given consideration. The first class of inductees will be honored at a banquet next June.

If you would like to submit alumni names for consideration, please submit the name, graduation year, contact information and reasons for consideration to John Bell, Middle School Principal, at P.O. Box 217, Route 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973 no later than November 5, 2004.

**Golden Jubilee
 Celebration
 June 3, 4, 5
 2005**

D The Minisink Valley High School Vocal Music Department is pleased to announce the acceptance of the Mixed Chorus into the 2005 Disney Honors Choir Invitational. The Disney Honors is a nationally recognized festival. The Mixed Chorus has been selected to perform in the spring of 2005. Over 500 groups from all around the United States applied for admittance, and we are proud to announce that Minisink Valley is one of only nine groups to be accepted so far!

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Y Thank you to all of the residents of Minisink Valley for creating an atmosphere conducive to the arts.

Need a night out? Some time to do holiday shopping?

MV Girls' Softball team to hold Kids Night Out on Friday, Dec. 3 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at the HS - \$10 per child
 For more information call Mr. Guyette at 355-5150.

High School Pool Schedule

Lap Swim
 Monday/Wednesday 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Recreational Swim
 Tuesday/Thursday 7:30 - 9:00 PM
 Saturday 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Water Aerobics is back!
 Mondays /Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm

Pool Admission
 Senior Citizens \$1.00
 General Admission \$2.00
 Families \$5.00

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ATTENTION ALL MINISINK VALLEY BAND AND CHORUS ALUMNI

As part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration scheduled for June 3, 4, 5, 2005, we are putting together an MV alumni band and chorus to perform on Saturday evening, June 4.

If you have had three or four years of high school band or chorus experience, are available and committed for rehearsal during the afternoon of June 4, have the ability to perform music on a medium-easy to medium level, and have an instrument in good working condition, we need you!

Alumni Band contact John Lawrence at
bandman37@hotmail.com.

Alumni Chorus contact Vic Izzo at
vizzo@minisink.com.

Dust off your instrument and warm-up your vocal chords for a fun evening.

Thursday, Nov. 4; Friday, Nov. 5; Saturday, Nov. 6 -
All shows at 7:30 PM High School Drama Production *Father of the Bride*

Monday, Dec. 6 - Otisville 3rd Grade Chorus Concert 7:00 PM (snow date 12/13)

Tuesday, Dec. 7 - Middle School Chorus Concert 7:00 PM (snow date 12/8)

Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Intermediate School Grade 4-5 Chorus Concert 7:00 PM (snow date 12/20)

Tuesday, Dec. 14 - High School Holiday Concert 7:30 PM (snow date 12/15)

Tuesday, Dec. 21 - Middle School Band Concert 7:00 PM (snow date 12/22)

**Thank you to
ExxonMobil
Educational
Alliance Program
for its two \$500
grant awards.**

Project Graduation

Junior parent volunteers needed.
Call Sue McIlroy at 355-2913 or
Carol Murray at 355-1976 to help.

The students in our middle school are donating spare lunch change to help the student victims of the terrorist attack in Beslan, Russia recapture their education and replace supplies and/or facilities lost in the siege of their school earlier this school year.



Pictured here are Joshua Franck and Ben Jakubowski

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 Sutera
Victor Vignola

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martha Murray

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Newsletter

Debbie Roda