

August 2009

Dear Parents,

Things are busy at Vail Farm Elementary during the summer. The school office is open each day during the summer from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Please stop by or call if there is any information we can provide.

Here is some important “beginning-of-the-year” information for you.

1. NewsFlash is the fastest way for VFES to get important messages to parents... If you have not already subscribed to this service, go to the Vail Farm website: <http://teacherweb.com/ny/arlington/Vailfarmelementaryhomepage> Navigate to the NewsFlash page and follow easy directions to enter your e-mail address and/or cell phone number.
2. The first day of school is Wednesday, September 9th. During the first week of school, buses will drop off children at the end of the day later than scheduled. Sometimes it is 20-30 minutes late. Thank you in advance for being at the bus stop on time and waiting.
3. On the first day of school, each child will bring home two Emergency Information Summary cards. It is very important to fill those out on Wednesday night and return them to school on Thursday.
4. Our school will operate on a 6-day cycle for scheduling art, library, physical education, and music (general music, chorus, and instrumental instruction). Each classroom teacher will send home your child’s schedule on the first day of school. September 9th is “Day 1”. September 10th will be “Day 2”, etc. The Vail Farm Elementary School calendar will have the day marked for each school day. This pre-designated day (1, 2, etc) will not change even if there is a school cancellation.
5. The school schedule:
 - 8:40 AM Children get off the buses and move to their classes.
 - 8:50 AM Children arriving after this time are late and must be signed in at the office by a parent.
 - 11:20 AM AM Kindergarten ends.
 - 12:45 PM PM Kindergarten begins.
 - 3:10 PM Children who are being picked up by a parent come to the cafeteria. Parents must send in a note that morning if their child is not a regular pickup.
 - 3:15 PM Children are dismissed to the buses.

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6. Parent Drop-Off in the morning: Anytime after 8:30AM, parents are to drive up to the front lobby door and let your child out of the car to enter the school. A staff member will greet you at the curb and supervise your child entering into the front lobby door. Have your child exit from the car onto the curb rather than on the driver's side of the car. It helps to have your child ready to exit quickly since often there will be a line of other cars behind you. Parents who drop off children after 8:50 AM must park their cars and come into the main office to sign in your child.
7. Parent Pickup in the Afternoon: Park your car and proceed to the cafeteria at 3:10 PM. Check your child out by the door near the stage. Each pick-up child must have a note for permanent pickup or a daily note.
8. School Safety: Until we get to know you, please have identification ready to show when coming to pick up your child.
9. The school cafeteria will serve lunch each day. Children can also bring lunch. Your child has a PIN number to use whenever they go through the lunch line. Their PIN number is the same every year. A school breakfast is available as well. Please check with the school office about free-reduced lunch eligibility forms.
10. On September 8th, teachers will be engaged in meetings all of the day and are unavailable for visiting.
11. Our school will continue with our Positive Behavior Support Program called Vail Farm Elementary School CARES (Cooperating, Acting responsibly, being Respectful, Everyone being Safe).
12. Parent Open House Nights at 7PM: September 16th for grades K and 4; September 17th for grades 1st and 5th; September 22nd for 2nd and 3rd.
13. The first PTA meeting will be Thursday, September 10th at 7PM in the library. Mrs. Michelle Schneider, our PTA President, and I hope you can attend.
14. All "Babysitter Request" forms (detailing this year's request for regular pick-up from or delivery to a place other than your home) are due in the school office now. Your Babysitter Request form for last year is void for this year.
15. Please remind your child to leave trading cards, cell phones, electronic devices (games, CD players, etc.) at home. Such items brought to school will have to be picked up by a parent. Sneakers with wheels on the soles of the shoes and backpacks with wheels are not appropriate for school. Each creates its own safety problem.
16. To promote a healthy environment, children will not fill water bottles at school from the hallway or classroom drinking fountains.
17. Dutchess Community College will provide a "before and after school program" at our school. For more information about this program call Ms. Glorianne Roe at 380-9536.

We are very excited about the upcoming year at Vail Farm Elementary School.

Sincerely,