

Vail Farm Elementary School

1659 East Noxon Road

LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Claudine Khare, Principal

Christopher M. Quaranto, Assistant Principal



Our mission is to empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community, and lead passionate, purposeful lives.

September 26, 2021

Dear Vail Farm Families:

It has been a great start to the 2021-2022 school year. Following our first full week of school, we are reaching out with some important information and reminders.

ACSD Code of Conduct

This past week, all students, by grade level, engaged in a Code of Conduct review with Mr. Quaranto, Assistant Principal. Students were presented with their rights and responsibilities and the importance of following school rules to ensure a safe learning environment. We ask that parents review the [ACSD Code of Conduct Summary 2021-2022](#) with their children. The full version of the ACSD Code of Conduct can be found on the district website under the “student” tab.

Vail Farm Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook - 2021-2022

The Vail Farm Parent/Student Handbook [can be found on our website](#).

Buses

We understand there are concerns about the buses not arriving at their scheduled time in the afternoon. We are doing all we can at the building level to get buses loaded and have them depart as soon as possible. We load students on buses each afternoon as soon as their bus arrives at Vail Farm. Prior to coming to Vail Farm, buses are completing their high school/middle school bus runs and for many routes these runs have been delayed and/or taking longer than expected. The transportation department has been working with the particular routes that seem to be consistently delayed and are trying to rectify the situation. In addition, there is a need for additional bus drivers and monitors which often requires them to have to combine routes or create routes that are longer than normal. If a particular route or routes leave Vail Farm after 3:30 pm, we will send a School Messenger to families (email and text) notifying the time of departure.

Parent Pick Up

Those families picking up students in the afternoon are reminded to not block the buses from being able to enter. In addition, please proceed with caution and follow the posted speed limit. Finally, have your name plate on the dashboard of the passenger side.

Contact Tracing

Per the [district's re-entry plan](#) (p. 11) this is a reminder to families that in some cases we do need to conduct contact tracing when we are notified of a positive COVID-19 case, and we follow the parameters below as they relate to specific areas of the building:

- **Cafeteria:** Students and staff in the cafeteria with a positive case within the 48-hour look back window are quarantined if they fall under the definition of a close contact (within 6

feet for more than 15 minutes). Due to the space in the Vail Farm cafeteria, students are sitting in a 4'x 6' configuration and therefore may be considered a close contact of another student.

- **Bus/Vehicle:** Students and staff on the bus with a positive case within the 48-hour look back window are quarantined if they fall under the definition of a close contact (within 3 feet for bus rides over 15 minutes). Students are sitting less than 3' apart and therefore, even while wearing masks, may be considered a close contact of another student.
- **Classrooms:** Students and staff in classrooms with a positive case within the 48-hour look back window are quarantined if they fall under the definition of a close contact (within 3 feet for more than 15 minutes). This will require us to contact staff to understand the context of the classroom experience.

Mask Breaks

Teachers are providing masks breaks throughout the day, both in the classroom as well as using outdoor spaces. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding of the importance of proper mask wearing during the school day.

Safety Drills

Throughout the school year we will conduct numerous safety drills (fire drills, bus evacuation, lockdown drills, hold in place drills) in case of a real emergency. To date, we have conducted 5 emergency drills. We ask that you speak with your child about the importance of these drills and reassure them that we are doing this for their safety.

PTA

Our first five day week ended with a wonderful PTA event on Friday afternoon. This is one of the many events the [Vail Farm PTA](#) organizes each school year that support students' social/emotional growth. Please consider joining the Vail Farm PTA by visiting the [electronic membership form](#). You can also print a paper form for PTA membership by clicking [here](#).

Finally, most grade levels will be continuing the iReady Diagnostic Assessment this upcoming week in their classrooms. A reminder that if your child is in grades 2-5, please make sure they charge their chromebook each evening prior to bringing it back to school each day. We will outline upcoming events in our October Family Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Claudine Khare, Principal

Mr. Christopher M. Quaranto, Assistant Principal