

Glens Falls City School District
Kensington Road Elementary School

August 2017

Dear KRS Families,

I hope that each of you is experiencing an enjoyable summer full of good people and uplifting times. While I am always a bit sad to see the summer slipping away, I can't help but feel excited about the upcoming school year and I hope you are too! I will try and keep this letter as brief as possible, but there is so much I would like to share with you.

The KRS PTA Technology Committee met at the end of last year, and I am happy to report the introduction of a few new STEAM (science, technology, ELA, Arts, math) opportunities for students in grades K – 4 to use in the Maker Space and in the library/media center. The PTA has purchased 5, I-Pad Mini 4, with Wi-Fi, to allow our students greater hands- on access to the world, classroom curriculum and their personal interests. In addition, the Ozbots Classroom Kit was purchased to introduce our students to programming, and Keva planks to test their engineering skills.

Along with individual, classroom, and building goals, KRS students and staff will be working toward increased student attendance next year. Studies show that students are more likely to succeed academically when they attend school consistently. When parents make school attendance a priority, they help their child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school. According to the NYS Education Department the only legal excuses for students not being in school are: illness of student, serious illness or death in the family, religious observance, impassable roads or weather, court appearances. If you are interested in helping KRS as a school community improve our daily student attendance, along with other important building goals, please consider joining the KRS Building Site Team this fall. 😊

Several new staff members will be joining the KRS think tank this year, while others will be swimming at different levels. Mrs. Brandi Breault will be moving from third grade to fourth grade. I anticipate a continuation of educational excellence. Mr. Paul Motsiff will be joining our Kindergarten team and Mr. Randy Tyner will be rounding out the fourth grade team. Both Paul and Randy are Glens Falls City School District veterans, and both will have a strong kick-off followed by plenty of forward momentum. Mrs. Annemarie Dumar is our new library/media specialist. Mr. Camelo has left some big shoes to fill, but I believe Mrs. Dumar is up to the challenge! Mrs. Julie Curtis will be heading up the fourth grade 15:1 classroom. Mrs. Curtis previously taught at Big Cross and brings with her enthusiasm, experience and an excellent teaching assistant, Melissa Mallory. In addition, three new teacher/student aides, Mrs. Mikaela Flewelling, Mrs. Ilona Reilly, and Mrs. Rebecca Streicher will be joining the KRS

staff. Finally, Mrs. Tiffany Britt will be our new full time social worker at KRS. Mrs. Britt is very excited to be here and we are excited to have her. Welcome and welcome back to all.

This year, students will enter and exit the building at the following assigned locations based on grade level or classroom assignment:

- Kindergarten - Main Doors
- First Grade – Main Doors
- Second Grade – Main Doors
- Third Grade – Middle Doors
- Fourth Grade – Middle Doors

In order to make arrival and dismissal a safe and timely process for all, we ask that you follow a few simple rules when delivering and picking up your child.

If you would like to **drop your student off for school without getting out of the car**, please utilize the Drop off Lane on the right when entering the parking lot:

- Move as far forward as possible into the Unloading Zone, which begins just past the main doors, before dropping off your child. Look for the signs!
- Children should exit the car on the right and ONLY in the Unloading Zone.
- Four cars should be able to unload at one time in the Unloading Zone if cars pull as far forward as possible before releasing students.
- DO NOT get out of the car in the Drop off Lane or Unloading Zone. Your child must be able to exit the car on their own.
- Your child should exit on the Right Side of the car in the Unloading Zone.

If you need to get out of the car for any reason, then you must use the Parking Lane to park your car before getting out. **You must park if:**

- You plan on getting out of the car to help or say goodbye to your child.
- If you wish to walk your child to the door or enter the school.
- Do not stop/wait in the middle of the Parking Lane.
- Do not release your child for school in the Parking Lane.
- Please park in designated spaces only. There are parking spaces on the side of the building as well.
- Obey the one-way traffic signs.

In general, please keep the follow in mind:

- Drop off takes place off between 8:15 and 8:20. Students will be walked to their classroom at 8:20. They will be marked tardy after 8:30 AM.
- Only students eating breakfast may be dropped off at 8:00 AM at the Main Doors. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria.
- Your child needs to be picked up at 2:45 PM. If anyone other than you will be picking them up, please provide your teacher with a note indicating this.

- Only fourth grade students, and third graders who passed the BOCES Bicycle Safety program at the end of third grade, may ride their bikes to school unaccompanied by an adult. Bikes must be walked on school property.
- Though we love our four legged friends, please do not bring them with you to morning drop off or afternoon pick up.
- Kindly obey stopped school bus signs.

Phew! Those are a lot of rules! Please bear in mind that these rules were created for the safety of our children and their educational well-being. Please **inform anyone** dropping off/picking up your child of the rules, for example, grandparents, and

care-givers. 

The KRS staff and I want to encourage parents to come to the school and participate in various activities. We always want you to feel welcome. For safety purposes, please remember to check in at the main office upon visiting and obtain a visitor badge. If you should have any specific custody concerns, kindly supply us with the appropriate court documentation.

Good Home-School Communication is a vital link in the chain of student success. In order to strengthen this link, parent/teacher conferences will be held twice during the school year. The first session accommodates every student while a spring conference is scheduled as needed. In addition, a Parent Informational Night will be held on Tuesday, September 26th; more information to come. I encourage all parents to attend this event to receive valuable information regarding their child's classroom, curriculum, academic, social, and emotional supports that are available for KRS students.

A student/parent handbook, along with other important necessary information, will be sent home on the first day of school. Please take a few minutes to read through the handbook to acquaint/re-acquaint you with Kensington Road School. If you have a question, most likely the answer is in there!

Enclosed, you will find several pieces of information that I hope you will find beneficial. Should you have questions related to any of this information, please feel free to call the school at 793-5151.

The KRS staff and I look forward to the 2017-2018 school year with all the possibilities it holds for new learning, friendships, and experiences. Best wishes for the remaining days of summer.

Sincerely Yours,

Jennifer Hayes

Principal

"KRS - Nothing less than our best."