



Cherry Avenue Buzz

Principal's Message

September/
October 2024

Dear Cherry Avenue Families:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We're off to a great start! Thanks to your help and preparation, classes have experienced a smooth, seamless transition.

This year, I am pleased to welcome new staff members: Ms. Joan Cuocci and Jessica Wilkow, teacher aides, Ms. Stephanie Dowd, attendance aide, lunch monitors: Mr. Carmine Feramisco and Ms. Catherine Fraccalvieri, 4th-grade band teacher, Ms. Kathryn Marks, Ms. Brooke Zecchini who is filling in for Ms. Konstantatos in kindergarten before taking over as one of our permanent substitute in October, Ms. Jenna Reda, kindergarten teacher, and Ms. Mary Valentino who is teaching LACES (World Language), along with Ms. Chirichella. Also, a warm welcome to Ms. Jennifer Whittman-Cahill, who transferred from SHS to join our PE team, working alongside Mr. Chris Martino.

Thank you, CA PTA, for overseeing school photos. We are also grateful for the UPK and kindergarten play dates that took place over the summer! The thoughtful and generous Welcome Back Staff Breakfast was enjoyed by all! The PTA remains busy as they prepare for the upcoming BMX assembly on September 18, and October events: Book Fair (10/8 & 10/9), Red Ribbon Week (week of October 21) and Trunk or Treat (10/25). A separate schedule for Red Ribbon Week will be sent out at a later date.

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a school-based process by which students are regularly screened and monitored to assess if students are responding to classroom instruction and progressing as expected. The aim is to match instruction to students' individual learning needs. As a result, we use iReady to conduct universal screenings which are given to all students three times a year. In addition to other indicators, students are identified as needing the services provided by designated tiers.

Tier I: Students are progressing as expected with the instruction provided within the classroom.

Tier II: Students require some additional support and targeted instruction for success. This can take the form of small-group instruction, additional instructional time, or a variety of other interventions both within and outside of the classroom.

Tier III: Students who are still not progressing after receiving Tier II services or who have qualified by their scores will be given even more intense and frequent intervention services, often using specialized programs and/or materials.

Fall screening will take place from September 16 through October 4 and we will send home tiering information at a later date.

At Cherry Avenue, the practice of safety drills is of utmost importance. The students learn about evacuation drills, fire drills, lock-downs, lockouts, and the importance of listening, so they will know what to do in the event of an emergency. Security will continue to be present in the building during the school day. To uphold the safety of students and staff, it is very important that all visitors report directly to the security desk upon entering the building and be prepared to show photo ID.

If your child(ren) will not be in school, please call Cherry's attendance line at (631) 244-6702 to report the absence. Please note that this line is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

For students in grades K-5, please do not drop off students prior to 8:20 a.m., unless they are attending the breakfast program, which begins at 8:00 a.m. This timeframe will minimize hallway crowding while waiting for class to begin at 8:30 a.m. for the grade levels mentioned above. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. for UPK students.

In an effort to ensure a smooth dismissal process, please contact the office as early as possible in the day to inform us about any changes to your child(ren)'s dismissal plan. It is also helpful if you send an email regarding a change in dismissal plan the day of, that you copy the main office in case the teacher is absent (ddethomasis@sayvilleschools.org and dfiore@sayvilleschools.org.) Although unexpected situations may arise, when we are informed about a change during student transitions (e.g., after the dismissal process begins), it makes it difficult to communicate a change in plans. To ensure the safety of walkers at dismissal, we are requesting that students engage in safe behavior, especially while in close proximity to the staff parking lot, by adhering to the following:

- No running.
- Stay away from the curb.
- Do not hang on trees.

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Please do not bring your pet when dropping off/picking up your child(ren). If you would like to walk your dog, please arrange to meet your children off school grounds. This rule is for the safety of all of our students. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance with this matter.

October is Fire Prevention Month. The West Sayville Fire Department will host a kindergarten field trip to the firehouse and hold assemblies at Cherry Avenue for UPK and students in grades 1-5. We thank them in advance for their time, partnership, and dissemination of vital information/tips for staying safe.

Our 4th-Annual Color Mile Run/Walk is taking place on Saturday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m., at Sayville Middle School (rain date 9/29). Hope to see you there!

As Halloween approaches, all students may dress up (no masks/accessories) in costume on Thursday, October 31. The kindergarten parade, a tradition here at Cherry Avenue, will take place at 9:30 a.m. Families are invited to join us outside in the front loop to enjoy the performance.

Just a reminder that smart watches/gaming devices (e.g., gizmo and vtech watches), along with any other non-district owned technology devices are not permitted in school. Thank you for your support and understanding.

At Cherry Avenue, we believe in and value a student-centered and engaging community where resilience is fostered and all feel welcomed, respected and valued. Small-group instruction and STRIDES are used as a vehicle for collaboration (e.g., care about others, appreciate and welcome diversity, encourage teamwork, etc.) and independent learning (growth mindset, the power of “yet”, be resilient in challenges, etc.). In today’s world, it is vital for our students to be equipped with tools to face and overcome inevitable disappointments, setbacks, and challenges. As educators, our job is to teach our students those tools and that is what we aim to do, supporting them while they navigate life in school and beyond. We also strive to instill some back to basics into our school community and hope you will partner with us to incorporate some oldies but goodies in your family life. Too often we are consumed with technology, stress, and everyday life that we lose sight of simply living and what matters most—human interactions and being present in the moment.

I am asking for your cooperation regarding students returning after school to retrieve forgotten items. I have encouraged teachers to remind students to double check that they have packed everything they need to bring home. It would also be helpful if you would remind your child(ren) of the necessity for students to take responsibility for packing up at the end of each school day. In the event that it does become necessary for your child(ren) to return for an item, please be aware that after three o’clock we have very limited staff to provide an escort to the classroom, and that the office closes at four o’clock; therefore, trips back to the building will not be possible after 4:00 p.m., and at times, 3:30 p.m. may be the latest option.

If you are not signed up for Parent/Student Portal access or have questions about an existing portal account, please send an email (using the email address we have on file) to sayvilleportalinfo@sayvilleschools.org and questions will be answered within 48 hours. Please be sure to check your spam/junk folders if you have email addresses from Yahoo, Hotmail, and Gmail. First trimester report cards are distributed hard copy during parent/teacher conferences. Second trimester report cards will be available via the Parent Portal in March. We will use this same format for the third trimester report card in June, so it important that you have access to the Portal.

The Shared Decision Making Committee (SDMT), formerly referred to as Site Based Team (SBT) has representatives at each of the five buildings. The team consists of school administrators, faculty members, and parents, with equal representation at the table. The primary purpose of the committee is to guide school improvement activities by analyzing needs and initiating school-wide discussion. Examples include: planning the annual Veterans Day Breakfast, Math Carnival, Digital Detox Week, P.S. I Love You Day, ways to incorporate more SEL in to the classroom/school, planning events and programs, etc. Parent volunteers must commit to a two-year term and have a child(ren) attending CA during that time. Typically, when parent representatives are needed, the District has a parent in charge of recruiting volunteers. At the present time, our District representative is Mr. Arini. Next year, we will be in need of parent representation.

On October 18, in preparation for homecoming (October 19), we are encouraging all students in grades K-5 to wear either Sayville attire, purple and/or gold, our school color red, fox attire (mascot), sports uniforms/jerseys for our pep rally. The purpose of this assembly is to foster excitement for our high school team/community. We will hold a “pep rally” for students to show enthusiasm, support, and Sayville pride for tomorrow’s homecoming game. All students will be recognized during the assembly. Football players and cheerleaders (cheerleaders are not permitted to wear league-issued uniforms, as per organization rules, but may wear cheer-related apparel) may wear their jerseys/uniforms, as they will introduce the assembly.

Future publications of the Cherry Avenue Buzz will be distributed via email (not hard copy), as well as the majority of flyers and information. Please make sure you are signed up for Parent Square. This newsletter will also be made available monthly on the building website (Go to www.sayvilleschools.org, select “Cherry Avenue” across the top of the page, click on “Our Principal” then choose “Principal’s Newsletter”).

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CALENDAR

Mon., Sept. 16— Fri., Oct. 4:	iReady Fall RtI Screener (Grades 1-5) - kinder sometime in November
Mon., Sept. 16—Fri., Oct. 11:	STEAM Lab Recycling Drive
Tuesday, September 17:	Constitution Day
Wednesday, September 18:	PTA BMX Assemblies
Thursday, September 19:	BoE meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—D.O.
Friday, September 20:	PTA Welcome Back Family Movie Night @ 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 22:	Sunday Funday Fundraiser @ 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.—Topgolf
Wednesday, September 25:	Family Connect Night
Thursday, September 26:	PTA Meeting (followed by 5th-grade committee meeting) @ 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 28:	4th-Annual STRIDES Color Mile Run/Walk @ 9:00 a.m.—SMS (rain date 9/29)
Wednesday, October 2:	PTA Walk and Roll to School Day, Rosh Hashanah begins @ sunset
Thur., Oct. 3 & Fri., Oct. 4:	Rosh Hashanah—school closed
Tues., Oct. 8 & Wed., Oct. 9:	PTA Fall Scholastic Book Fair
Friday, October 11:	Family Connect Night, Yom Kippur begins @ sunset
Monday, October 14:	Columbus Day—school closed
Friday, October 18:	PTA Homecoming Pep Rally
Week of October 21:	PTA Red Ribbon Week (Schedule to follow, but wear red on Tuesday, October 22)
Friday, October 25:	PTA Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 30:	PTA Photo Re-Takes
Thursday, October 31:	Kindergarten Halloween Parade @ 9:30 a.m.
Friday, November 1:	Diwali—school closed, Elementary and Middle School Band Night at the football game

CA Staff Shout-Out



Welcome, Mr. Chris Martino, our new part-time PE teacher. Mr. Martino served as one of our permanent substitute teachers last year. He comes to us with a great deal of PE and coaching experience. Mr. Martino is motivated in getting our young students to acquire a love of fitness and wellness that will remain with them throughout their lives. Hobbies include: skiing, watching the NY Yankees and the Houston Texans, coaching, etc. Mr. Martino is thrilled to be a part of the PE department, especially at Cherry Avenue!

We look forward to a positive, healthy, fun, and enriching school year! Please feel free to reach out if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ihne, Ed.D.

Principal