

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026



Orange County
Warwick Valley Central School District
Park Avenue Elementary School
10 Park Avenue
Warwick, NY 10990

**WARWICK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL
2025-2026**

Dr. David Leach Superintendent of Schools	District Office	987-3000
Meghan McGourty Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction	District Office	987-3000
Cindy Leandro Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources	District Office	987-3000
Timothy Holmes Assistant Superintendent for Business	District Office	987-3000
David Albert Director of Pupil Personnel Services	District Office	987-3000
Elizabeth DeFrancesco Director of Special Education	District Office	987-3000
Gregory Sirico Director of Athletics	District Office	987-3050
Laura Schneider Director of Transportation	Bus Garage	987-3035
Heather Roecker Coordinator of Health and Attendance	High School	987-3050
Than Harrington Director of Facilities	District Office	987-3000
BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS		
Dr. Georgianna Diopoulos, Principal Nicholas Emanuele, Associate Principal Chris Fiorentino, Associate Principal Erin Lewis-Hill, Associate Principal Jared Yapkowitz, Principal	High School	987-3050
Christopher Radon, Associate Principal Andrew Rao, Associate Principal	Middle School	987-3100
Johnna Maraia, Principal Timothy C. Ferraro, Associate Principal	Sanfordville School	987-3300
Vasilios Biniaris, Principal	Park Avenue School	987-3170

2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS

Thursday, July 10, 2025	Annual Organizational Meeting/Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 7, 2025	Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2025	Special Meeting – to establish tax rate & sign tax warrant
Thursday, September 4, 2025	Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2025	Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2025	Work Session
December 11, 2025	Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026	Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2026	Work Session
Thursday, February 5, 2026	Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026	Work Session
Thursday, March 5, 2026	Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2026	Work Session
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Work Session
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Regular Meeting: OU BOCES Budget Vote
Thursday, May 7, 2026	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	Special Board Meeting: Budget Vote Results 9:00 pm
Thursday, June 11, 2026	Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 25, 2026	Special Meeting

Warwick Valley Central School District 2025-2026 Student Calendar

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	(4)	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	(27)	(28)	29	30
31						

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	(1)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	(23)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	(2)	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	(13)	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	(11)	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	(27)	(28)	29
30						

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	27
28	(29)	(30)	(31)			

JULY
4 Independence Day

AUGUST
27-28 Supt. Conference Day

SEPTEMBER
1 Labor Day
2 First Day of School
23 Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER
2 Yom Kippur
13 Columbus Day

NOVEMBER
4 Supt. Conference Day
11 Veterans Day
27-28 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER
22-31 Winter Recess

JANUARY
1 New Year's Day
1-2 Winter Recess
19 Dr. M.L. King Day

FEBRUARY
16-20 February Recess
16 Presidents' Day
17 Lunar New Year

MARCH
30-31 Spring Recess

APRIL
1-3 Spring Recess
6 Spring Recess

MAY
22 Supt. Conference Day
25-26 Memorial Day

JUNE
19 Juneteenth
26 Last Day of School
(students & staff)

☐ = Supt. Conference Day
(no school for students)
○ = School Holiday

181
+ 4 Supt. Conference Days
185

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				(1)	(2)	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	(19)	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	(30)	(31)				

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			(1)	(2)	(3)	4
5	(6)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	(25)	(26)	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	(19)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Make up days, if necessary, will begin with May 26, March 30, March 31, April 1

Park Avenue Important Dates 2025-2026

Tue Sep 2, 2025	First Day of School
Mon Sep 15 - Fri Sep 19, 2025	Spirit Week
Thu Sep 18, 2025	6-8 pm Kindergarten - Grade 2 Back to School Night
Tue Sep 23, 2025	Schools Closed - Rosh Hashanah
Thu Sep 25, 2025	6pm Grades 3 - 4 Back to School Night
Tue Sep 30, 2025	7pm PES PTA Meeting
Thu Oct 2, 2025	Schools Closed - Yom Kippur
Mon Oct 6 - Fri Oct 10, 2025	Fire Prevention Week
Fri Oct 10, 2025	County-Wide Early Dismissal Drill - All Students Released 15 Minutes Early
Mon Oct 13, 2025	Schools Closed - Columbus Day
Tue Oct 14, 2025	School Picture Day
Wed Oct 15, 2025	School Picture Day
Fri Oct 24, 2025	Pink Out Day
Mon Oct 27 - Fri Oct 31, 2025	Red Ribbon Week
Tue Oct 28, 2025	7pm PES PTA Meeting
Fri Oct 31, 2025	PTA Halloween Happenings
Tue Nov 4, 2025	Superintendent's Conference Day - No school for students
Fri Nov 7, 2025	10am Park Avenue Veterans Day Event
Mon Nov 10 - Fri Nov 14, 2025	PTA Book Fair
Tue Nov 11, 2025	Schools Closed - Veterans Day
Wed Nov 12, 2025	5 - 8 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
Wed Nov 19, 2025	11:35am Early Dismissal 12:30 - 3:30 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
	5 - 8pm Parent Teacher Conferences
Fri Nov 21, 2025	7pm Drama Club Performance
Sat Nov 22, 2025	1pm Drama Club Performance 3pm Drama Club Performance
	School Picture Retake Day
Tue Nov 25, 2025	11:35am Early Dismissal
Wed Nov 26, 2025	Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Recess
Thu Nov 27 - Fri Nov 28, 2025	
Tue Dec 2, 2025	7pm PES PTA Meeting
Fri Dec 5, 2025	End of Trimester 1, 11:35am Early Dismissal
Sat Dec 6, 2025	11am PES PTA Family Brunch
Fri Dec 19, 2025	Kindergarten Polar Express Day 11:35am Early Dismissal
Mon Dec 22, 2025 - Fri Jan 2, 2026	Schools Closed - Winter Recess
Mon Jan 12 - Fri Jan 23, 2026	PTA Read-A-Thon
Mon Jan 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Jr. Day School Closed
Tue Jan 20, 2026	6pm Park Ave STEM Fair
Mon Jan 26 - Fri Feb 6, 2026	Park Ave One Book One School (OBOS)
Tue Jan 27, 2026	7pm PES PTA Meeting

Wed Jan 28, 2026	6pm STEM Fair Snow Date
Fri Feb 13, 2026	7pm Talent Show
Mon Feb 16 - Fri Feb 20, 2026	Schools Closed - February Recess
Fri Feb 27, 2026	7pm Talent Show Snow Date
Fri Mar 13, 2026	6pm PTA Bingo Night
Fri Mar 20, 2026	End of Trimester 2, 11:35am Early Dismissal
	6pm PTA Bingo Night Snow Date
Tue Mar 24, 2026	7pm PES PTA Meeting
Wed Mar 25, 2026	9:15am Park Ave 4th Grade Visit to MS
Mon Mar 30 - Mon Apr 6, 2026	Schools Closed - Spring Recess
Wed Apr 8, 2026	5 - 8pm Parent Teacher Conferences
Mon Apr 13 - Fri Apr 17, 2026	PTA Book Fair
Thu Apr 16, 2026	11:35am Early Dismissal
	12:30 - 3:30pm Parent Teacher Conferences
	5 - 8pm Parent Teacher Conferences
Tue Apr 21 - Wed Apr 22, 2026	Grade 3 and 4 NYS ELA Test
Thu Apr 23 - Fri Apr 24, 2026	NYS ELA Test Makeups
Fri Apr 24, 2026	6pm PTA Someone Special Dance
Tue Apr 28 - Wed Apr 29, 2026	Grade 3 and 4 NYS Math Test
	7pm PES PTA Meeting
Thu Apr 30 - Fri May 1, 2026	NYS Math Test Makeups
Mon May 4 - Fri May 8, 2026	PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
Mon May 11, 2026	7pm Park Ave Spring Concert at WVHS, 89 Sanfordville Rd, Warwick, NY
Tue May 12, 2026	9:15am - 2:15pm Park Ave Kindergarten Screening
Wed May 13, 2026	9:15am - 2:15pm Park Ave Kindergarten Screening
Thu May 14, 2026	4:30pm PTA Wildcat Warrior Course
Fri May 15, 2026	4:30pm PTA Wildcat Warrior Course Rain Date
Tue May 19, 2026	9:30 - 11am Park Ave Kindergarten Orientation (M-Z)
	5pm District STEAM Fair at WV Middle School, 225 West St Ext. Warwick, NY
Wed May 20, 2026	9:30 - 11am Park Ave Kindergarten Orientation (A-L)
Fri May 22, 2026	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School for Students
Mon May 25, 2026	Memorial Day - School Closed
Tue May 26, 2026	Memorial Day - School Closed
Wed Jun 3, 2026	7pm String Fling Warwick Valley High School
Thu Jun 4, 2026	5pm PTA Family Picnic
Fri Jun 12, 2026	Park-Ave-Palooza
Mon Jun 15, 2026	Park-Ave-Palooza Rain Date
Thu Jun 18, 2026	11:35am Early Dismissal
Fri Jun 19, 2026	Juneteenth - School Closed
Mon Jun 22, 2026	10am Moving Up Ceremony at WVHS, 89 Sanfordville Rd, Warwick, NY
	6pm Grade 4 Moving Up Celebration
Fri Jun 26, 2026	Last Day of School for Students and Staff
	11:35am Early Dismissal

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal	Office	Vasilios Biniaris
Main Office Secretaries	Office	Jeanne VanHassel
	Office	Sophia Cockerham
Nurse	Nurse's Office	Kathleen Priebke
Kindergarten	201	Theresa Canfield
	203	Suesette White
	204	Sarah Cordisco
	208	Lori Ingber
	209	Kimberly Dinino
Grade 1	150	Laura Campora
	153	Susan Kurg
	155	Aimee Urvater
	157	Charleen D'Angelillo
Grade 2	149	Donna Berghahn
	151	Jennie Theologis
	152	Anthony DiNoto
	156	Cathy Hobart
	154	Katie Schieman
Grade 3	308	Diane Kilbride
	303	Ashley McPherson
	305	Krystie Gilmore
	306	Carolyn Weller
	301	Shannon Kennedy
Grade 4	158	Julie Hornbeck
	307	Rose Anne Kuzmiak
	310	Inga Mezzetti
	309	Amanda Kowalczyk
	311	Gabe Perez

2025-2026 PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACULTY

Academic Intervention	159	Jenn Disy
	314	Jackie Maher
	109	Melissa Troup
Art	211	Lisa Fasano
STEM Teacher	100	Amanda Cangialosi
ENL Teacher	200	Nicole Bernard
Music		
General	110	Ashley Head
Band	114	Katlyn Mulzet
Orchestra	101	Keely Blaikner
Guidance Counselors	126	Jeanette Myrick
	128B	Rebecca Rand (Ranghelli)
Library/Media Specialist	128	Matt Spicehandler
Literacy Coach	214	Alisa Kadus
Occupational Therapist	206	Alyssa Arena
Physical Education	121	Patricia Langton
	121	Kristen Nazco
Psychologist	128A	Elissa Morabito
Resource Room	302	Alpino Fringuello
Speech	138	Kim Brady

2025-2026 PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

Greeters

Marilyn Schmidlin
Diane Trimlett

Instructional Aides

Jenny Bates
Amy Buliung
Helen McVeigh
Tracey Sarlo

Monitors

Kathleen Eder
Judy Quackenbush, Attendance
Lisa Cann
Lorraine Giarratano
Danielle Gobinski
Theresa Maybeck
Eileen Puma
Palma Siegel
Teri Walker

Food Service

Linda Barbero
Ana Brown
Dawn McBride

**Lead Custodian
Night Custodians**

Curtis Boone
Norman Bezares
Peter Cenot
Amanda Crandall
Sarah Mabie

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Thursday, September 18, 2025
Grades K-2 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 25, 2025
Grades 3 - 4 6:00 to 8:00 pm

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES – GRADE K-4

Fall Conferences:

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 Elementary Evening Parent Conferences
5:00 – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 Elementary Afternoon and Evening Parent Conferences
12:30 - 3:30 pm and 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Spring Conferences:

Wednesday, April 8, 2025 Elementary Evening Parent Conferences
5:00 – 8:00 pm

Thursday, April 16, 2025 Elementary Afternoon and Evening Parent Conferences
12:30 – 3:30 pm and 5:00 – 8:00 pm

WELCOME TO PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This handbook has been compiled to be used as a reference throughout the school year. It simply provides a general overview of our instructional program and indicates and points out matters of routine and policy in the daily operation of our school.

A well-rounded school program provides enormous rewards for the student, the school, and the community. A successful school program provides powerful possibilities and unique opportunities for every student. Its power ultimately lies in its capacity to raise human beings to higher levels of human experience and understanding.

BUILDING PROCEDURES

Park Avenue Elementary Arrival and Dismissal 2025-2026

Arrival: Student arrival begins at 8:45 -8:55 AM. The day officially begins at 8:55 AM.

- Bus Arrivals – Students will exit buses and enter through the cafeteria doors and go directly to their classrooms. Staff will be on bus duty to make sure procedures are followed.
- Kiss N’ Go- each morning parents can make a right turn into our Kiss N’ Go lane for a quick drop off. Your children should always exit the vehicle through the left side and then proceed to the school’s entrance. Staff will be there to escort and support students. We ask that all parents dropping off at this location please drive off as soon as your children have left the vehicle.
- Park Avenue Drop Off- Parents can also drop off students by pulling up to the curb in front of our Main Entrance. This is the same arrival location for all walkers.

Dismissal: The day officially ends at 3:35 p.m. Pick-ups and walkers will be the **FIRST** students called at dismissal.

- Bus Dismissal – Students will be dismissed by class at specific times. Teachers will supervise students during this time and, as always, will make sure all students are placed appropriately on buses. Parents are not permitted near the blacktop exit doors where the buses are located.
- This year we are intensifying our request for your cooperation during dismissal time. We ask that all requests to pick up students normally taking the school bus be shared with us by NOON, at the latest. Requests received late in the day cause disruptions to our dismissal process so your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated. Ideally, you should communicate this change to your child’s teacher in advance via a signed letter or email.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance and punctuality are necessary for academic achievement. Please make every effort to have your child in school each day on time.

School begins at 8:55 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:35 p.m. Students are not permitted to go to their rooms **before 8:45 a.m.** Prior to this time, there is no supervision for children; therefore, **please do not bring or send your child to school before 8:45 a.m.** In addition, parents and students are not permitted in the building unsupervised, before or after school hours.

Children are required to bring in a written excuse note, signed by their parent or guardian explaining their absence. The child should bring the excuse on the first day back at school after an absence. It would be helpful if you would call the school and let us know why your child is absent. If possible, please call 987-3170 **between 9:00-11:00 a.m.** If we do not receive a call from you, as part of our attendance policy, we will be calling to make sure that you are aware of your child's absence.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Parents will occasionally request telephone numbers and/or addresses of other students. The school cannot make these available. Keeping this in mind, class lists are not available for distribution to families or to the PTA.

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY WEBSITE

The Park Avenue Elementary website is accessible through the District Home Page at: **www.warwickvalleyschools.com**

TEACHERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

Teachers and administrators throughout the district are assigned e-mail addresses. The e-mail address consists of the initial of the individual's first name followed by his/her last name and the e-mail address extension (@wvcsd.org). As an example, the email address for George Washington would be: **gwashington@wvcsd.org**

P.T.A.

We are fortunate and proud to have an active, supportive, Parent-Teacher Association. All parents are urged to join the P.T.A. and help with the many projects that are of great benefit to our students. The 2025-2026 Park Avenue PTA

- Annalie Vallejo, President
- Joanna Tower, Vice President
- Ying Goodman, Treasurer
- Angela Hartmann, Corresponding Secretary
- Nicole Amoresano, Recording Secretary
- Andrea Batista, Social Media Coordinator
- Melody Piascik, Events Coordinator

P.T.A. meetings are valuable as they offer an opportunity to review topics that are important to help facilitate the education of our children. Email: **parkavepta@gmail.com**.

STUDENT INTERNET USE

District Policy 5285, *Student Access to Networked Information Resources*, is available for your review in the main office. The Policy governs student use of the Internet. At Park Avenue Elementary, the use of the Internet is closely monitored and supervised by our teachers. The majority of work is usually related to a single website that has been screened by the teacher.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL BUILDING

When it is necessary for you to take your child from school, either at an early hour or at dismissal time, you must make arrangements with the school office in writing. Parents/guardians requesting an early dismissal must report to the Main Office window to sign their child(ren) out of school. Parents/Guardians are required to submit a note when requesting an early dismissal. Please be prepared to show identification, especially if the staff member present does not recognize the visitor or parent.

Staff will not release a child without notification from the office.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

When inclement weather occurs

The Warwick Valley Central School District may close or dismiss students early when inclement weather occurs. Every possible effort is made to release this information before 5:30 a.m. so parents and staff are notified before they leave for work. Closings, delays, and early dismissal information is communicated in many ways, including:

- Posted on the homepage of this website, the district's Facebook page, and our Twitter pages.
- School Messenger Service (text and email)
- School News Notifier (SNN)
- TV stations: WABC-TV, WNBC-TV, FOX 5/NNYW, Hudson Valley News 12
- FM radio: 93.5 WTBQ; 92.1 Lite-FM; 92.7, 96.9 WRRV; Star 93.3; 94.1, 95.7, 96.7, 103.1, 107.7 FOX; 94.3, 97.3 The Wolf; 96.1 KISS FM; MIX 97.7; 98.9 Fox Oldies; News Talk 99.3 WKIP; 100.7 WHUD; 101.5, 106.1, 106.3 WPDH; and 107.3
- AM radio: 1110 WTBQ; 1220 Fox Oldies; 1340, 1390 Radio Disney; 1450 WKIP-AM
- Please keep in mind that a power outage may prevent information from being posted on the website, Facebook and Twitter, or from being sent via SNN, or from being viewed on cable TV. If power is out, please listen for school closure announcements on one of the radio stations listed above.

Please do not call the bus garage. Those phone lines must be kept free for emergency calls.

Occasionally there will be an EMERGENCY CLOSING due to power failure, road conditions, or other unforeseen situations. When this occurs, the radio stations are notified immediately as to the time of dismissal. Children will be sent home the usual way BUT it is extremely important that each child knows exactly what he/she should do if there is no one at home when they arrive.

HOME INSTRUCTION DURING EXTENDED ILLNESS OR INJURY

When serious illness or injury requires that a child be absent from school for an extended period (one month or more), the services of a home teacher may be supplied. Please contact the school office for further information.

SCHOOL LUNCH/BREAKFAST

A hot lunch program is in operation in the elementary schools. Milk and snacks are available separately for students who bring their lunch.

Any allergy concerns should be directed to the Food Service Department. If you have further questions, please email Julie Helmrich ihelmrich@wvcsd.org or call 845-987-3050 X 12895. Further details can also be found on our website at <https://www.warwickvalleyschools.com/departments/food-services> .

The breakfast and lunch menu will continue to be posted online.

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=eh3e827cga2cgbcnbjldon3hi4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FNew_York

LOST AND FOUND

There is always a collection of valuable items, sweaters, coats, hats, lunch boxes, eyeglasses, watches, etc. in the lost and found. Items of lost clothing are placed on a rack in the rear of the cafeteria. Lost eyeglasses, watches and jewelry are kept in the school office. Parents are asked to put their child's name on lunch boxes, gloves, hats, coats, sweaters, boots, etc. to aid in the recovery of these items.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Warwick Valley Central School District designates the following items as Directory Information: student name, address, telephone number, date, and place of birth. The District may disclose any of those items without prior written consent, unless notified in writing by the parent/guardian or eligible student to the contrary by the **end of the first thirty days of the school year.**

SCHOOL PHONE

Please encourage your child to remember items necessary on a daily basis – homework, sneakers, lunch, etc.. Helping children to be responsible develops self-discipline and independence. In addition, please have contingency plans in place for early dismissals and emergency closings that do not require your child/children to call home for instructions. In an emergency, we need our phone lines accessible to outside calls in order to prepare and implement plans that will keep our children and staff members safe.

REVIEW OF STUDENT'S RECORDS

In accordance with district Policy #8540, parents of students or eligible students may inspect and review the student's education record. A written request which identifies as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect should be submitted to the student's school principal (or other appropriate school official).

USE OF SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Warwick Valley Central School District shares with you the pride of having, utilizing and maintaining adequate school facilities. Resident non-profit groups are granted the privilege of using school facilities for a variety of reasons after the school day.

For information regarding district policies, rules and regulations, and use of district facilities please visit our district homepage at <http://www.warwickvalleyschools.com>

RECESS

Students will go outside throughout the school year for recess. It is vital that you dress your child appropriately for the weather conditions. Boots, hats, gloves, and warm coats are a requirement for snowy, cold weather.

If recess is indoors, students are expected to play in a quiet manner with games and books provided or items they bring from home.

The rules for recess are as follows:

1. The monitors are in charge.
2. Play on the equipment properly.
3. Things you find on the ground stay on the ground; snowballs, sticks, rocks, sand, etc.
4. If you make teams or clubs, they must be open to anybody to join, with no self-assigned leader, captain, etc.
5. Everybody knows fighting and hurting is an absolute NO – that includes no hurting people’s feelings.

CLUBS, INTRAMURALS AND EXTRA HELP

Throughout the year a variety of activities are planned for students before or after regular school hours. Unfortunately, there is no late bus for the elementary schools. Parents must make arrangements for their child to be picked up if they attend an after school activity. Some teachers may provide parents with the days in which they will be available for extra help for students. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher prior to the day they would like to stay.

HEALTH SERVICES

School nurses provide educationally-oriented health services to promote, protect, maintain and improve the health of our students. The school health program is based upon the premise that the health of pupils will be reflected in a greater effectiveness of the total school program. School nursing personnel act as a liaison between the home, school and the medical community regarding medical concerns.

PHYSICALS

The New York State Education Law requires that school children in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and students new to the district have a physical appraisal.

If you plan to have your family physician examine your child, please return the Annual Physical Examination Form, completed by your family physician, before October 1st. After this date, the school physician reserves the legal right to make a physical appraisal of all pupils for whom we have no report.

MEDICATION

According to New York State Law, there is a definite procedure for our nurses to follow before any kind of medication can be given to a child in school. The law requires the following steps:

1. The school nurse must have a written order, signed by a doctor, giving the following information:
 - i. Name of medicine
 - ii. Reason for giving
 - iii. Dosage
 - iv. Time
 - v. Number of days to be given
2. It must have a professional label.
3. It must be brought to the school nurse and/or picked-up by an adult. **Under no circumstances is a child to bring medication to school.**
4. The parent or guardian must submit a written request to the school nurse to give the medication as directed.

5. The medication will be destroyed seven days after the final dosage is required. (The unused medication may be picked up by the parent within this period).

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

A well-rounded school program provides enormous rewards for the student, the school, and the community. A successful school program provides powerful possibilities and unique opportunities for every student. Its power ultimately lies in its capacity to raise human beings to higher levels of human experience and understanding.

English Language Arts K-4

- The Warwick Valley Central School District follows a balanced approach to literacy (reading and writing) instruction. Based on the importance of literacy instruction in the younger years, students will receive 120 minutes of ELA instruction and practice daily.
- Our work with students is built on the foundation of guiding them to find their own identity as readers and writers. While the students will learn reading and writing skills within the context of various genres, they will have many opportunities to make their own choices about their reading and writing lives. Students will choose independent reading books from classroom libraries and the library media center based on their interests and strengths. Students will also be able to choose topics and story ideas that are important to them when writing within different genres.
- Reading and writing lessons will be taught using the workshop model.
- Students will be assessed in a variety of ways including daily informal classroom observations, the work in their readers and writers notebooks and through summative assessments. Our primary reading assessment tool is the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System.

Mathematics

- In grades K –4, students use the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Into Math* program. In addition to developing basic number concepts and skills, these series offer remedial and enrichment materials as well as problem solving activities for students at all levels.
- A formal assessment program is an integral and on-going part of the math program. Chapter/Module tests are given throughout the year to assess individual student progress.
- As part of the program, students use hands-on materials suggested by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Skills and concepts are developed through individual and small group instruction.

Science

- The science program targets all of the pertinent standards articulated by the Next Generation Science Standards. To be consistent with all aspects of our curriculum, and best practices, hands-on and experiential learning is emphasized.
- The Engineering is Elementary (EiE) science curriculum helps cultivate problem solving skills and all design challenges foster the design process in an age appropriate manner. The incorporation of STEM Scopes ensures a comprehensive and integrated curriculum that cuts across concepts and all disciplines.

- An annual STEM Fair is held to celebrate students’ work in these areas. All children are welcome.

Social Studies

- The Social Studies Curriculum for the elementary student encourages interdisciplinary learning organized around five perspectives: social, political, economic, geographic, and historic.
- The district builds citizenship skills and multicultural awareness in our students by including activities, information, and experiences about racial, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic diversity.
- The Social Studies Program initially focuses on helping the students develop an awareness of themselves as growing and changing individuals and the need to develop social interaction skills. Based on respect for themselves and others, students explore the roles and responsibilities within families, schools, rural, urban, and suburban communities as well as global communities
- Information from a variety of resources includes children’s literature, textbooks, and authentic experiences.

Arts in Education

An important objective of an elementary school program is that the child shall become creative and shall learn to admire and seek beauty. Throughout school life, in all learning areas, the arts are engaged to educate through all the senses. Therefore, the arts are seen in both their creative (performing) and aesthetic (appreciative) aspects as an essential element of the total school curriculum.

Visual Arts

- Art has structure within a broad dominion, a vast history, a varied technology, and a developed pedagogy. The structure of art incorporates its history in many cultures, media, techniques, and creative problem solving.
- At the center is the structure of art principles (unity, variety, contrast, etc.) and art elements (color, texture, line, form, mass, etc.). Art structure can be taught in any period of childhood development, using any personal approach that is honest. The effectiveness of the elementary art education program is directly related to the environment within which the program operates.
- Students participate in art class once per six-day cycle.

Music

The District offers a comprehensive music program in grades K – 4. Students participate in general music class: Kindergarten – Grade 2, once per six-day cycle
 Grades 3-4, once per four-day cycle for general music and one chorus

General Music Class Activities

- Students will participate in several activities for each class: singing, listening, creating, reading, and writing music.
- Discussions, which may include content, composer, background, and style of all music presented.
- Correlation to other arts or sciences when appropriate.

- Listening sessions accenting objectives in chosen songs.
- Involvement of students, whenever possible, through creative movement, singing or instrument playing (Orff, rhythm instruments, and recorders).

Choral Music Program Goals

All third and fourth grade students are required to participate in chorus. The study of choral singing in an ensemble setting promotes human growth and development in five vital areas: intellectual, emotional, physical, aesthetic/creative, and personal.

Instrumental Music Program Goals

Students may elect to participate in band or orchestra at the beginning of fourth grade. The study of an instrument both individually and in an ensemble setting promotes human growth and development in five vital areas: intellectual, emotional, kinesthetic, aesthetic/creative, and personal.

Library Media

- The Library Media Program at Park Avenue School introduces students to the finest in children's literature, while, at the same time, seeks to develop those basic skills of inquiry and analysis that are essential to the well-rounded individual.
- Students have an opportunity to regularly visit the library with their class where they are given the opportunity to borrow books. In addition, the librarian works with the classroom teacher and students are also introduced to the literature and/or information resources appropriate for their level.
- The library is always available to students who need further help selecting reading material or finding information using our various print and electronic resources.
- Parents can help make their child's library experience even more rewarding by helping the children in the following ways:
 - Show interest in your child's library books - research shows that the single most important factor in learning to read is being read to regularly from a young age. Help your child learn to love books by sharing those he/she has brought home
 - Help your child remember what day his/her class visits the library - with some help your child will learn to become responsible for returning his/her books on "library day."
 - Help your child find a special place to keep library books - by finding a safe spot for the books, they are less likely to become lost or damaged.

Computers

Classroom computers are maintained and kept in working order. We also provide teachers appropriate software to be used in the classroom.

Physical Education

Our primary goal is to teach every child, from the physically gifted to the physically challenged, how and why they should keep themselves healthy and fit. In our Physical Education Program, we provide learning experiences which are developmentally appropriate and will teach children how to be physically active in ways that increase physical competence and self-esteem. We achieve this by:

- Our physical education curriculum includes a balance of skills, concepts, game activities, rhythms, and gymnastic experiences designed to enhance the cognitive, affective, and physical development of every child.
- We provide experiences that encourage children to question, integrate, analyze, apply cognitive concepts, and gain a wide multi-cultural view of the world.
- Throughout the year we teach activities that allow children the opportunity to work together to improve their emerging social and cooperation skills. These activities also help children develop a positive self-concept.
- The New York State Physical Fitness Test is used as part of the process of helping children understand, improve, and/or maintain their physical fitness.
- Children are taught exercises that can keep the body in proper alignment, thereby, allowing the muscles to lengthen without placing stress and strain on the surrounding joints, ligaments, and tendons.

Some things that parents/guardians can do to help us achieve our goals are:

- Make sure your child is prepared to participate with appropriate footwear, loose, but not baggy clothing, protective eyewear, and no jewelry for safety purposes.
- Encourage your child to at least attempt the activities on a given day. When it is absolutely necessary to dismiss your child from physical education, please list specific activities that your child can participate in, as it is against New York State regulations for a child to not attend a physical education class.
- Attend as many sporting events as possible with your child. It is very difficult for a child to grasp the whole picture of a sporting event, or how all of the small pieces fit together to make up the whole without visualizing it.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI Tier 2) PROGRAM

Response to Intervention Services include additional instruction and support services that help our students maintain progress in meeting the New York State Learning Standards in English Language Arts K-12, Mathematics K-12, Social Studies 4-12, and Science 4-12.

Systematic identification procedures for monitoring and measuring student performance include multiple sources of evidence that documents student progress. These procedures include:

- Teacher recommendation
- New York State and standardized tests (grades 3 – 4)
- Review of student records and report cards
- Classroom progress monitoring (RTI Tier 1)

The intensity of services for students is based upon the level of the student's needs as determined through the multiple measures and sources of evidence. The number of times per weekly cycle range from once to daily and the amount of time per session ranges from 30-45 minutes.

Parent Involvement includes notification of what and when services are provided; ongoing communication and opportunities to confer or call; student progress reports; and notification of end-of-year status.

School Psychologists & Counselors

Warwick's psychologists and counselors play a major role in the areas of prevention, intervention and remediation of school problems. They help identify and evaluate children with specific emotional, social, behavioral and learning issues. They provide either short-term or group counseling to students who are experiencing emotional difficulties as they relate to the school environment or academic expectations. In addition, they act as a resource to staff members and parents in assisting and supporting them in working with children with special needs.

Social Worker

The school social worker intervenes in situations where behavioral, emotional, or social factors interfere with the student's ability to attain his/her educational potential. The social worker provides casework services, which include assessing individual student and parent concerns, providing individual and/or group counseling to students, and helping parents make use of appropriate community services. In addition, they act as a resource to staff members and parents in assisting and supporting them in working with children with special needs.

Speech Services

Speech therapists work with youngsters who have a variety of speech and language disorders. Students having mild to severe articulation disorders are also seen. Therapists serve students classified by the Committee on Special Education as well as students who have special needs at the building level.

STEM

STEAM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics – in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEAM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

Elementary School – STEAM education focuses on the introductory level STEAM courses, as well as awareness of the STEAM fields and occupations. This initial step provides standards-based structured inquiry-based and real world problem-based learning, connecting all four of the STEAM subjects. The goal is to pique students’ interest into them wanting to pursue the courses, not because they have to. There is also an emphasis placed on bridging in-school and out- of- school STEAM learning opportunities.

WARWICK VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of the Superintendent of Schools HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

I. Purposes of Homework

1. To reinforce skills through drill.
2. To reinforce material covered in class by review.
3. To provide the pupil with a method for reflecting on ideas presented.
4. To provide a means for developing desirable habits such as completing work on time, budgeting one’s time, and promoting growth in responsibility.
5. To introduce new work as a prerequisite for meaningful discussion.
6. To bring pupils into contact with out-of-school resources.
7. To broaden and enrich the knowledge of a pupil.
8. To encourage pupils in the process of self-education and self-direction.
9. To allow for differences in the ability, achievement, and interest of the pupils.
10. To provide a means by which parents can see what is taking place in the school.

II. Characteristics of Desirable Homework Assignments

1. Pupils should clearly understand the purpose of the assignment as well as what the assignment actually is.
2. Homework should be meaningful and not “busy” work.
3. Homework should not be used for disciplinary purposes.
4. Some assignments should be given to be completed over a period of time.
5. Assignments should be evaluated by the teacher.
6. Some assignments should take into account differences of pupils in a particular classroom and, therefore, appropriately differentiated.
7. Assignments should try to encourage pupils to go beyond what is actually assigned.
8. Assignments should be reasonable for the pupils both in terms of difficulty and the length of time it takes for their completion.
9. Homework should not overload the student.

III. Types of Homework Activities

1. Continuation of work begun in class.
2. Drill in fundamental skills.

3. Review of material.
4. Research for long-term projects.
5. Gathering of materials and a systematic presentation.
6. Purposeful seeking for ideas and information through observation of the world around us.
7. Experimentation to uncover fundamental truths.
8. Textbooks, library materials, reference works, and recreational reading.
9. Make-up of essential and appropriate work missed due to absence.
10. Memorization of facts.
11. Catch-up when schoolwork is missed because of absences.

IV. Length of Homework Assignments

The following are guidelines of what is expected in the Warwick Valley Central Schools:

Grades K - 2 (10-20 minutes)

At times, pupils are asked to complete something that is started in class. Special assignments are given to certain pupils as the need arises. Vocabulary words are sent home regularly. Individual teachers will inform you of their practices.

Grades 3 - 4 (30-40 minutes)

For these students this is a time to begin forming habits of regular, short homework. For students in grades 3 - 4, regularly assigned work should take from one-half hour to one hour each evening or before school to complete. At times, recreational reading is assigned.

Teachers will involve you in their expectations. Encourage reading at home.

V. Role of the Home

1. Cooperate with the school in making homework effective.
2. Understand why homework is important and supports academic achievement.
3. Provide conditions, which will be conducive for studying.
4. Give children more responsibility in the planning of their homework schedule as the children progress through the grades.
5. Encourage children to work independently.
6. Encourage children to do the best of which they are capable.
7. Take an active interest in what their children are doing.
8. Communicate with the school about homework.

The Warwick Valley Central School District recognizes and emphasizes the importance of reading as a means of self-education. Pupils should be continuously encouraged to pursue independent reading.

A complete copy of the Warwick Valley School District Code of Conduct is available on the district website, www.warwickvalleyschools.com. This Code has been adopted by the Warwick Valley Central School District Board of Education and submitted to the New York State Education Department as required by law. The Code applies to all students, school personnel, parents, and other visitors when on school property (including school buses and vehicles) or attending a school sponsored function.

ROAR~ A MATRIX OF BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Park Avenue's PBIS Team has come up with ROAR - 4 short behaviors that we expect everyone in our Park Avenue School Community to abide by. They are:

- Respect
- Outstanding choices
- Acceptance
- Responsibility

Here at Park Avenue, it is our goal to make ROAR as clear and easy to understand for all children. What you will find on the matrix, is what each of these rules actually looks like in various places in and on the school grounds. In a positive manner, the matrix tells the children what to do and how to behave in order to meet these expectations in the various areas of the school. The matrix (and/or portions of the matrix) will be posted in each classroom in areas around the school.

Please take the time to go over and review this matrix with your child(ren).

ROAR at Park Avenue

One of the most important parts of the PBIS system is that behavioral skills and expectations are taught directly to the students. This way the children know exactly what is expected of them and how they should behave. ROAR lessons will be taught to the students the first week of school in September and then reviewed again as necessary upon returning from the winter break in January. Students needing additional lessons in order to demonstrate mastery will be given those lessons as needed throughout the year.

ROAR GOLDEN TICKETS ~ AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM

Research shows us that positive reinforcement is one of the best ways to change problematic behavior, but also to encourage and maintain appropriate behavior. Another component of the PBIS system is the use of consistent positive reinforcement to celebrate students' success by giving them a golden ticket. Golden tickets will be placed in the appropriate grade level containers found in the main office before the end of the day each Friday. One student name from each grade level classroom will be announced on Monday morning each week and students will get the opportunity to choose an incentive from the weekly incentive basket.

The last Friday of the month, one ticket will be drawn from each grade level from the month's cumulative tickets. The winners will have the opportunity to choose from the monthly prize basket and/or the bulletin board selection of certificates.

In order to recognize our students' positive behavioral choices, Park Avenue students will be treated to a school-wide celebration three times during the school year. In order to have continued reminders of our PBIS school wide program, students and staff will be encouraged to wear purple and/or gold on Friday's each week to show their school spirit.

THE ODR ~ OFFICE DISCIPLINE REFERRAL FORM

Even with teaching children our expectations, offering pre-corrections or reminders of our positive reinforcement system, some children will still misbehave. For those instances, the Park Avenue Staff has designated the ODR (Office Discipline Referral Form). This form is in line with the district behavior code infractions. The form will also help staff be more consistent not only with enforcing our ROAR behaviors, but also in taking corrective action when children who have disobeyed the rules.

Before an ODR is filled out, teachers will try to manage the situation through regular classroom management. Students are expected to fill out a “Think About It Sheet”. If the behavior is extreme or if it is a third or fourth offense, an ODR will be filled out. At that point, the student will be called to the principal’s office for a discussion. Parents will be notified.

Our goal is to teach the children replacement behaviors in order for all children to work in a school environment that is safe, fun, free from distraction, and allows all children to reach their maximum learning potential.

WILDCATS ROAR

At Park Avenue



	STAIR-WELL/ HALLWAY	BATHROOM	CAFETERIA/LUNCH	RECESS	CLASS- ROOM	BUS
R espect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Greet others with soft voices ▶ Pass by classrooms quietly and respectfully ▶ Follow teacher directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stay in your own personal space ▶ Use soft voice ▶ Keep hands and feet off the stall walls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Greet adults politely ▶ Respect monitors, custodians and lunch servers ▶ Use indoor voices ▶ Use manners (please/thank you) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Share equipment ▶ Talk nicely to others ▶ Take turns ▶ Follow game rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Be Kind ▶ Be Polite ▶ Raise your hand and wait your turn to speak. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Politely greet driver and others on bus ▶ Maintain inside voices ▶ Share seat
O utstanding Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Follow voice code (0 or 1) when by yourself or with others ▶ Keep hands/feet to yourself ▶ Use every step when walking on stairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Use water, soap and paper towels correctly ▶ Flush toilet after use. ▶ Place paper towels in the garbage can after use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Respect personal space of others ▶ Follow directions ▶ Stay in assigned lunch area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Respect school property and the property of others ▶ Line up quickly when called ▶ Use equipment properly ▶ Keep hands & feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Be on time to class ▶ Follow directions the first time ▶ Be prepared for class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Take care of your property and others' property ▶ Keep your area clean ▶ Keep hands & feet to yourself
A cceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stay in your own personal space ▶ Greet others with a friendly smile and/or hello 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Knock on the stall door before opening ▶ Wait your turn for the bathroom and sink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Speak in quiet voices (voice code 1 or 2) ▶ Include others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Allow others to play ▶ Be supportive of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Be open minded and patient ▶ Be a good listener 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Be kind to everyone on bus
R esponsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stay to the right while traveling in the hallway and stairwell ▶ Go directly to your assigned classroom ▶ Use the hand rail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Keep restroom clean. ▶ Use time wisely ▶ Return directly to your assigned place ▶ Lock stall when entering and unlock when leaving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Focus on eating first ▶ Clean up after yourself ▶ Recycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Put equipment where it belongs when done ▶ Get permission to leave recess area ▶ Tell adults about unsafe behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Follow classroom rules ▶ Stay on task you are working on ▶ Clean up after yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Follow the bus driver's directions ▶ Stay in your seat ▶ Keep hands and feet inside seat area

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWO REFLECTION SHEET



Name _____ Date _____




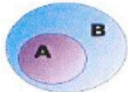


Am I following **ROAR?**

RESPECT **O**UTSTANDING CHOICES **A**CEPTANCE **R**ESPONSIBILITY

Today my behavior was:



I did not make a ROAR choice when I was:

Out of my seat	Not listening or following directions	Calling out, interrupting or not waiting my turn	Invading others' personal space	Being disrespectful	Not telling the truth
					

I will make better choices next time by using my:

Listening Ears



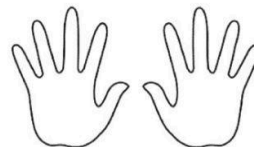
Thinkina Brain



Watching Eyes



Gentle Hands



Kind Words



Caring Heart



Teacher asks student, "How did you feel when you made this choice? Why?" Teacher may also have student draw/write to respond.

Additional Teacher Comments:

Teacher Signature: _____

I have seen my child's behavioral reflection. We have discussed his/her choices.

Please sign and return: _____

Thank you for your support at home to ensure our school remains a positive, happy, and safe environment.

GRADE THREE AND FOUR REFLECTION SHEET




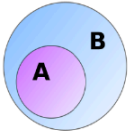




Name _____ Date _____

Am I following **ROAR**?

RESPECT OUTSTANDING CHOICES ACCEPTANCE RESPONSIBILITY

What did I do? I was.....

Out of my seat	Not listening or following directions	Calling out, interrupting or not waiting my turn	Invading others' personal space	Being disrespectful	Not telling the truth
					

TO SHOW ACCEPTABLE ROAR BEHAVIOR...

-----I will be kind and polite

-----I will follow classroom rules

-----I will be a good listener

-----I will raise my hand and wait my turn

-----I will tell the truth and be honest

-----I will keep hands/feet to myself

Comments:

Teacher's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Please return this form to your child's teacher)

Additional Comments:

PLAYGROUND RULES

1. Students are to stay within the boundaries of the play areas.
2. Climbing trees is prohibited.
3. One person at a time may occupy a swing; and students must sit while swinging.
4. No hard ball may be used on school grounds during the school day. The only balls permitted are those issued by the school.
5. No play involving tripping, wrestling, hitting, or throwing another to the ground is permitted.
6. Throwing of snow balls, stones, or other objects is forbidden.
7. No knives, cap pistols, edged tools, or other objects capable of inflicting a wound should be brought to school.
8. Students must follow monitors' directions and rules at all times.

BUS CONDUCT AND RULES

1. Children may not change buses except in an **emergency** situation. Any emergency change must have prior approval of the Transportation Supervisor.
2. Children will not be allowed to get off the bus at any other than their regular stop without written permission by a parent or guardian to the principal.
3. While waiting for the bus, children should stay out of the road and wait without pushing and shoving. They should not wander onto private property.
4. As the bus approaches, line up at least 6 feet off the road, and do not move toward the bus until it has stopped and the driver has opened the door.
5. Children must remain seated while on the bus.
6. Heads, arms and hands are to be kept inside the bus.
7. Nothing is to be thrown from the bus.
8. Eating is not allowed on the bus.
9. Loud talking and distracting noises are prohibited.
10. Help keep the bus clean.
11. Obey all directions given by the driver.
12. Students should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before leaving their seats to exit the bus.
13. Students who must cross the street when leaving the bus must do so in front of the bus.

A child who repeatedly misbehaves on the bus will be reported to the principal through the use of a bus discipline report, filled out by the bus driver. Upon receipt of the first such report, the principal will speak to the student and notify the parent. A second discipline report may warrant a conference with the student and parent. Should a third report be received, the student's bus privileges will be suspended for up to five days, after the parent is notified.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are very special and exciting days for students. As a school, we want to continue recognizing this special day while being sensitive to the District Wellness Policy, student allergies, and financial hardships. Beginning in September 2017, we moved away from edible treats for birthdays and replaced them with non-food celebrations. Students, teachers, and parents will collaborate to choose an appropriate celebration option for each child.

Please request a list of non-food celebration choices from your child's classroom teacher, as each list may be a little different. Some examples may include: creating a birthday book or card from the class, having a guest reader come in, having the child read a special book to the class, donating a gift to the class in their honor,

having a special show and tell for the birthday child, playing a special game, and more! In addition, student birthdays will be recognized during the morning announcements and by giving each student a certificate from the Principal.

Other holiday and curriculum-based food experiences will continue to be managed by the classroom teachers. Together we can continue to celebrate our students in a healthy and positive way!

WARWICK VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

The Warwick Valley Central School District does not discriminate in its employment and admission to programs and activities as applicable, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, veterans' status, political affiliation, domestic victim status, use of a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, disability, or other classifications protected under federal or state law, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The designated district compliance officers will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, and the New York State Human Rights Law.

The Warwick Valley Central School District's Compliance Officer is Cindy Leandro, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Safety, P.O. Box 595, Warwick, NY 10990-0595, phone (845) 987-3000, Ext. 10522. Complaints may also be filed with the Office for Civil Rights, New York Office, U.S. Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005-2500, phone (646) 428-3800, fax (646)428-3843, email: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.

THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT **(D.A.S.A)**

New York State requires that all faculty and staff be notified, in writing, about the Dignity for All Students Act. The Dignity Act states that **“No student shall be subjected to harassment or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function based on their actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex”**. If you witness a “material incident”, please report it to the Dignity Act Coordinator or a building administrator. The definition of a material incident is, “a single incident or a series of related incidents where a student is subjected to discrimination and/or harassment by a student and/or employee on school property or at a school function that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such severe or pervasive nature that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional, and/or physical well-being; or causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.” Teachers, parents, and students can report material incidents, which will then be investigated. We will keep you informed of any changes and the procedures that we will implement here at Park Avenue Elementary.

