

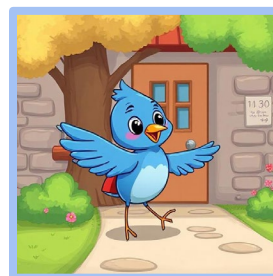
The Village Back to School Bluebird

August/September 2025

Dear Village School Families,

We hope you're enjoying a restful and joyful summer! As we prepare for the start of the school year on **Thursday, September 4th**, the Village School team is filled with excitement and anticipation. We can't wait to welcome our new and returning Villagers to VES, home of Blazer the Bluebird! VES is a vibrant learning community, and we look forward to all the opportunities for growth and connection the new year will bring.

Family involvement is an essential part of our school community, and we greatly value your partnership. One way to stay connected is through the Montgomery Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (MES PTA). Under the leadership of Co-Presidents Mrs. Danielle O'Connor and Mrs. Kathryn Worland, the MES PTA is already working alongside us to help make this a fantastic school year. You can learn more about how to get involved by visiting the [MES PTA website](#). We also encourage you to sign up for PTA emails through Genesis-Parent Access to stay informed about membership, volunteering opportunities, and upcoming events.



To support a smooth transition into the school year, PTA volunteers will support our staff during the first few days to help guide students to their classrooms in the morning and to their buses at dismissal. Color-coded maps will also be posted at each entrance to assist with navigation. We invite you to **join us for our Open House on September 3rd**—a great chance to get a preview of the building! You can find the Open House schedule and details below.

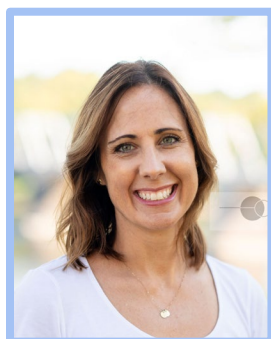
Please take a moment to review this edition of the Bluebird for important dates and helpful links. Most importantly, read through our updated [2025–2026 School Handbook](#), which contains key information about life at VES. Our [VES website](#) is another great resource to help you stay informed throughout the year.

Wishing you a wonderful remainder of summer!

Warmly,



Ms. Susan Lacy, Principal



Mrs. Jessica Glover, Assistant Principal

Student Identification Cards

As part of our ongoing effort to increase safety, security and efficiency in our schools, **all** students must have their school IDs with the breakaway lanyard when on school grounds. Students will scan their ID barcodes upon entering and exiting their buses for bus attendance to ensure each student is on the correct bus. Additionally these ID cards will be used in the cafeteria to pay for lunch and in the school library for book checkouts. An ID is a school-issued item, which must be kept in the same condition in which it was issued.



For all rising third-grade students and returning fourth graders, we hope you were able to keep your ID safely secured this summer as they will be needed at the beginning of this school year until a new one is issued. If you have misplaced your ID, please fill out this [New Student ID Request Form](#). If you are brand new to the district, please expect more information from our main office about how to receive your child's temporary ID card.

ALL students will receive new IDs once they are processed and issued after school picture day.

You're Invited to the VES Open House!

Wednesday, September 3rd! | 3rd Grade: 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm | 4th Grade: 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

We're excited to welcome you to our VES Open House! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to visit their classroom, meet their teachers, and get a sneak peek of VES.

Important Reminders for Your Visit:

- All students entering the building must be chaperoned by their parent/guardian.
- Please have your child wear their district-issued ID badge and breakaway lanyard to the Open House.
- A new bus tag will be available in your child's classroom and should be placed on the back of the badge holder, facing outward.
- If you're unable to attend, the bus tag will be given to your child on the first day of school.
- New to the District? Families new to Montgomery will receive more details from our main office about temporary ID cards for your child.
- Medication Drop-Off: The VES Health Office will be open in August and during the Open House to collect medications and necessary forms. Please see *Notes from the Health Office* in this issue regarding scheduling a visit.
- Parking & Entry: Parking is available in the front, side, and rear lots, as well as across the street from the school. You may enter through either the main entrance or the rear parking lot doors.
- PTA Welcome: Our wonderful PTA volunteers will be on hand to greet and guide families. Be sure to stop by their table for school spirit wear and other VES gear available for purchase!



We can't wait to see you and kick-off an exciting year together at VES!

Class Placement and Supply List Information

Beginning **Friday, August 22nd after 5 PM**, you can log into Genesis-Parent Access to view your child's teacher assignment, classroom number, and teacher welcome letter. **Please note, you must complete all required district forms before accessing the welcome letter.** Refer to the district email sent on **August 13th** for more information.



General grade-level supply lists were shared in June and are posted on the [VES homepage](#). Teacher welcome letters may include additional supply requests specific to the classroom. Teacher websites may also be updated through the start of school.

As noted in June, some 4th grade students will have two teachers—one for language arts and another for math, science, and social studies. Students will remain with their homeroom class and transition between the two teachers, who collaborate closely.

Our team has thoughtfully placed each student in a setting designed to support their success. **At this time, we are unable to accommodate classroom change requests.** We appreciate your understanding.

To View Student Placement Information:

- 1) Visit <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>
- 2) Enter your username, which is your email address, and your password. If you forget your password, use the "Forgot My Password" link. Your password will then be sent by email. If you are unable to log in or do not have an account, please contact genesissupport@mtsd.us.
- 3) Click on *documents* and view the teacher's welcome letter

Snacks & Lunch

Back to School with Maschio's

Please visit the link for information from [Maschio's Food Services](#) to help you plan for the school year and learn about our school lunch program and offerings.

Snacks and Food Allergies

Please send your child with a healthy nut-free snack and water (no glass containers please) every day. According to district regulations (5531), all classrooms will be nut-free and no students or staff will share food. All classroom celebrations will include methods that do not involve food. For more information, please [click here](#) for the Guidelines for the Management of Life Threatening Health Conditions in School.



A Note from the Health Office

If your child requires medication at school, whether taken daily or in case of emergency (including EpiPens), **please ensure that all medication and required forms are submitted to the Health Office before the first day of school.** Forms can be found on the [VES Health Office website under Forms](#). These forms include the Allergy Action Plan, Asthma Treatment Plan, and Medication Administration Form.



Medications and forms may also be dropped off with Mrs. Cizin in the Health Office on August 27 and 28 if you would like to discuss any specific health needs that your child may have. You are also welcome to bring in medications during the Open House on 9/3, however, due to the large number of families coming in, it may not be possible to spend an extended time in discussion. If your child has specific health needs that you would like to have discussed please email Mrs. Cizin at pcizin@mtsdsd.us to make an appointment during one of those days.

For new families to the district, please submit the following to the Health Office prior to the first day of school:

- A recent physical exam completed by your child's physician
- An up-to-date immunization record
- The completed Child Health Form (available on the [VES Health Office website under Forms](#))

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Health Office directly. We're here to help!

Best,

Mrs. Patricia Cizin and Ms. Yuen Tang

Busing, Parent/Guardian Drop Off and Pickup

We strongly encourage students to ride the bus to and from school. You can find your child's bus route and number in your Genesis-Parent Access account. Bus tags with important identification details will be provided at the Open House. Please attach the tag to the back of your child's ID badge holder, with the information facing outward. Be sure to review the bus rules outlined in our [School Handbook](#), and visit the [Transportation Department website](#) for additional details. If you choose to drive your child to or from school, please carefully review our drop-off and pick-up procedures to help ensure a safe and efficient process for everyone.

Morning Drop Off:

If you need to drive your child to school, please use the driveway on the right side of the school to travel to the **rear** entrance. **This entrance will be open from 9:25 a.m. - 9:35 a.m. Please do not drop your child off early as the doors will be locked until 9:25 and there is no supervision.** Upon arriving at the rear of the school please follow the guidelines below.

1. Travel as far forward as possible along the sidewalk on your left.

2. Have your child ready to exit the car when you reach the sidewalk.
3. Stop your vehicle next to the school sidewalk.
4. Your child may exit on his or her own on the driver's side of the car, along any part of the sidewalk. Children are not permitted to exit from the passenger side without assistance from an adult.
5. Two doors will be open and supervised for your child's convenience and to assist with the flow of traffic.
6. Please remain in the line of cars in front of you and wait for traffic to move. Do not dart around any cars to avoid colliding with those exiting at the front of the line. ***Should you need to pass another car to exit, please do so with extreme caution!***
7. DO NOT park in the Fire Lane for any reason.
8. Continue to follow the roadway back to Main Blvd.
9. Please do not drop students off in the front of Village School at any time, except for before school programs. YMCA parents must park in the lot and walk children inside using the YMCA bell.



End of Day Pick Up:

Please note the main entrance will be inaccessible for pick-up between 3:30 and 4:00 PM.

Please send a note to your child's teacher if you plan on picking up your child in the afternoons or if your child is attending an after school activity. Include in the note, the name of the person picking up your child. **Without a note, children will be sent to their buses.** The person picking up your child will be asked to produce identification (valid driver's license) when they come to pick up your child. All parents/designees should be prepared to produce identification at any given time, upon request, and they must sign children out before leaving the school building.

1. Use the driveway on the right side of the school to travel to the **rear** entrance of the school. Turn left into the first entrance of the large parking lot.
2. Park in the designated spaces and enter through the cafeteria doors. **All adults must enter through the rear cafeteria doors and must sign children out in the cafeteria.**
3. Students will be dismissed to the cafeteria waiting area with their parent pick up-notes at 3:50 p.m. as instruction takes place up until this time.
4. Upon exiting the parking lot, please use the rear exit on the far side of the lot.

Please review our [School Handbook](#) for additional details regarding our morning, end of day and midday drop off and pick up procedures and the best way to communicate same day changes to your dismissal needs. Your assistance in following these guidelines will help us and help you, keep all children and visitors safe. Thank you for your cooperation!

School Counselor Offerings

Meet Our School Counselors! Mrs. Fornal and Mrs. Schantz are looking forward to a great school year and are here to support the social, emotional, and academic well-being of all VES students. Throughout the year, they offer both individual and small group counseling for students who may benefit from additional support. To kick off the year, they will be leading special groups for new

students to help them get acclimated, feel connected, and begin building friendships within our school community.

Feel free to reach out to them with any questions. Mrs. Schantz will be the third-grade counselor and can be reached at jschantz@mtsd.us. Mrs. Fornal will be the fourth-grade counselor and can be reached at lfornal@mtsd.us. You may also call 609-466-7606 and press 5 for the counseling office. If you have any questions or concerns that require immediate attention, please contact the main office. Our counselors will be available for assistance once school resumes in September.



YMCA Before & After School Care at VES

The Princeton YMCA provides before and after school childcare for children who attend VES. The YMCA tailors its hours to accommodate working families, and offers children diverse and enriching activities in a safe and nurturing environment. Visit their [website](#) and scroll to the Childcare section or call the YMCA at: 609-497-9622 for more information.

Important Dates!

First Day of School

Thursday, September 4th!

*Student regular school day hours are: 9:35 am - 3:55 pm

School Picture Days

Monday, September 8th and Tuesday, September 9th

*You will receive more specific information about the exact date from your child's teacher.



Back to School Nights

- 3rd Grade: Monday, September 15th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- 4th Grade: Wednesday, September 17th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

*These nights are for parents/guardians only. The evening will begin with a community and related arts fair followed by presentations by your child's classroom teacher and our school leaders.

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Monday, November 3rd
- Tuesday, November 4th
- Wednesday, November 5th

*You will receive more specific information about the exact dates and times available from your child's teacher later in October.

For all important dates, please take a look at our [district calendar](#)!