



The Village School Fall 2025 Bluebird

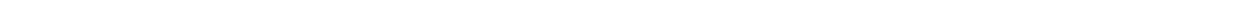
Our school year is off to a positive and productive start! Students are working hard and learning to practice Blazer's Beliefs each day. Please continue to reinforce goals and expectations at home.

October began with our Week of Respect recognition to set the tone for the rest of the school year. See more in the article below. We also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with class lessons and projects on important leaders. Thank you to all of our parent speakers representing various countries for your presentations in our Spanish classes. Our PTA helped Villagers show their respect and appreciation for our hard-working custodians on National Custodian Day. We are grateful for all they do to keep VES safe and clean! We are also recognizing Disabilities Awareness through inclusive discussions and class read alouds such as *All the Way to the Top*, the story of eight-year-old Jennifer Keelan, who encouraged Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. What a trailblazer! In November, we will shine a light on Indigenous Heritage and Voting Equity in support of our pillar of character, Citizenship and in December we will highlight Giving and Service as we plan for our 31st annual Young Scholars Institute service project.

Please review this issue for additional information and updates regarding Digital Citizenship Week, Parent Teacher Conferences and more! Thank you for your support and active involvement. Enjoy the fall season!

Ms. Lacy, Principal

Mrs. Glover, Assistant Principal



October and November 2025 Spirit Days

Friday, 10/24: School Spirit!

Show your school spirit and wear VES or Monty gear.

Friday, 10/31: Happy Halloween!

Bring your costumes for your class party *or* show your school spirit with VES or Monty gear! *No masks or weapons.*

Tuesday, 11/4: Election Day!

Wear red, white, and blue!

Wednesday, 11/5: School Spirit!

Show your school spirit and wear VES or Monty gear.

Tuesday, 11/11: Veteran's Day!

Wear red to support our veterans!

Friday, 11/14: Apple vs. Pumpkin!

Wear red (team apple) or orange (team pumpkin). Which will win?

Friday, 11/21: MVP Day!

Our school substitutes are our MVPs! Help celebrate our substitutes by wearing sports-themed clothing.

Wednesday, 11/26: Cozy Day!

Cozy up with comfy clothes for Thanksgiving!



OCTOBER SPIRIT DAYS
Village Elementary School

- **Friday, 10/3: Our Custodians Make Our School Shine!**
National Custodian day is celebrated every October 2nd. Celebrate our hardworking V.E.S. custodians by wearing your favorite pair of sunglasses to school.
- **Friday, 10/10: No Drama, Pajama!**
Wear your favorite pair of pajamas.
- **Friday, 10/17: Women's Health Awareness!**
October is women's health awareness month. Wear Pink!
- **Friday, 10/24: School Spirit!**
Show your school spirit and wear VES or Monty gear.
- **Friday, 10/31: Happy Halloween!**
Bring your costumes for your class party *or* show your school spirit with VES or Monty gear! *No masks or weapons.*



NOVEMBER SPIRIT DAYS
Village Elementary School

- **Tuesday, 11/4: Election Day!**
Wear red, white, and blue!
- **Wednesday, 11/5: School Spirit!**
Show your school spirit and wear VES or Monty gear.
- **Tuesday, 11/11: Veteran's Day!**
Wear red to support our veterans!
- **Friday, 11/14: Apple vs. Pumpkin!**
Wear red (team apple) or orange (team pumpkin). Which will win?
- **Friday, 11/21: MVP Day!**
Our school substitutes are our MVPs! Help celebrate our substitutes by wearing sports-themed clothing.
- **Wednesday, 11/26: Cozy Day!**
Cozy up with comfy clothes for Thanksgiving!

Week of Respect: Respect Ourselves, Others, and Community



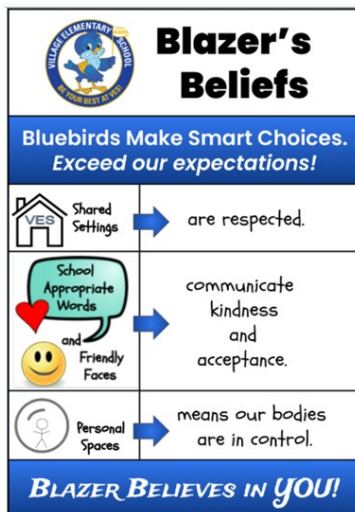
During the week of October 6-10, we celebrated the Week of Respect! Each day, students took part in morning meetings, discussions, and activities that highlight the importance of kindness and respect. We began the week by learning what respect looks and sounds like in our school community, then explored how to show respect for ourselves and others. Midweek, we focused on respecting diversity by celebrating the many unique qualities that make each of us special. The week wrapped up with a fun “No Drama, Pajama” day, reminding students that staying calm, solving problems peacefully, and avoiding unnecessary drama are all ways to show respect. Through these activities, students practiced the skills and attitudes that help build a caring, welcoming school environment.

The MHS Peer Leaders visited some of our classrooms to share lessons on respect. In addition, throughout this month, our school counselors are facilitating classroom lessons that focus on making sure we treat each other with respect and kind words so that everyone can feel safe and comfortable in school.

Thank you for furthering these discussions at home as we are always looking for students to show respect and compassion throughout the year for themselves and others, in our school and in our global community.

Blazer's Beliefs

As mentioned during Back to School Night, Ms. Lacy, Mrs. Glover and classroom teachers rolled out Blazer's Beliefs 2.0 which is our Core Value system that includes Common Language and Consistent Behavioral Expectations. We are off to a great start this year with practicing Blazer's Beliefs. We have had several Blazer Blasts celebrating our successes with our drills and positive displays during lunch, recess, and around our halls. Please review Blazer's Beliefs in our [School Handbook](#) and reinforce these expectations with your child to keep us flying through the school year.



Digital Citizenship Week - October 20-24



Each year during the third full week of October, Common Sense Media leads Digital Citizenship Week, an annual campaign to promote a healthy, balanced, and positive approach to media and tech use among young people. During the week of October 20-24, Villagers will learn about building healthy habits around technology use through videos presented on the VES Afternoon News. The topics include balancing technology time with other

activities, protecting your privacy, ways to identify and prevent cyber-bullying, managing distractions and spotting fake news, and decoding media messages. We are looking forward to seeing how students put this learning into practice so they can engage with technology in thoughtful and healthy ways. The VES and OHES technology teachers have also created an online book, [Being a Responsible Digital Citizen](#). This book contains activities, videos, and discussion questions that will help you start the conversations about being responsible online. We also recognize that sometimes the only time you have might be in the car, so we wanted to share [Common Sense Media Carpool Conversation Podcasts](#). These podcasts are under two minutes and will pose a question that will help guide a discussion and keep lines of communication open.

In order to foster meaningful relationships in school and on the bus, all technology is to remain at home. The use of cellphones and smartwatches in school and on the bus is not permitted as outlined in our VES Handbook.

Parent Drop Off and Important Safety Reminders

Regular School Day 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 open at 9:25 a.m. and closes at 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.

- Please have your child remain in your car until doors open at 9:25.
- As always, please drive all the way up to the farthest door to let your child out. While many students may want to get dropped off at the first parent drop off entrance, car lines extend into the street blocking traffic when parents stop at the first door. Our school is very familiar to our child and all children are able to navigate to their classrooms from the farthest door entrance. Adults are ready to assist throughout the building should any child encounter difficulties.
- After 9:35 a.m. you must park in our visitors' parking lot in front of VES and walk your child in through the main entrance. Parking is not permitted in the front bus driveway. **An adult must sign children in at the main office. Please review the [VES Handbook](#) for details.**



Before School Rehearsals and Programs Drop Off: Band and Bluebird drop off is between 8:00 and 8:15 and Chorus drop off is between 8:10 and 8:20 on designated rehearsal days.

When dropping students off at the main entrance for rehearsals please move forward as much as possible and stop your vehicle next to the school sidewalk. Your child may exit the vehicle and enter the building independently. Proceed forward so other parents can do the same in a safe and efficient manner.

DO NOT leave your car unattended in the driveway or fire lane. This creates congestion, delays and unsafe conditions.

YMCA parents must park in the front lot and walk children to the main entrance to be signed in with the YMCA staff.

A staff member will assist during the drop off windows, however, doors will be locked and students will need to be buzzed in by main office staff after the Band/Bluebird/Chorus arrival windows.

Halloween at VES



As Halloween approaches, we would like to inform you of upcoming activities in which your children are welcomed to participate. On Friday, October 31st, we will kick off the day with our annual Readers' Theater assemblies. VES students and staff will participate in fun and interactive large group read alouds, then each class will share a collaborative class creature slide with a fun and creative bio! Halloween class parties will be planned, facilitated and attended by room representatives and their designees only. Designated parent participants are required to check in at the front door sign-in station upon arrival.

Students are welcome to wear VES/Monty gear or Halloween costumes for their class parties. Costumes should be quick and easy to change into/out of and be free of props/weapons. Your child's teacher(s) and room parents will provide classroom party details.

Alternative activities will be available for students not participating in Halloween activities. Just let your child's teacher know so we can plan accordingly. Thank you for your support and cooperation in making Halloween organized, safe, and fun for everyone!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are a chance for you to meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss their participation, learning habits and progress for this school year. This year, Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for 3 days, November 3rd, 4th and 5th for 10 minutes each. Virtual conferences are encouraged and more efficient to help us stay on schedule. However, you may request an in-person conference by contacting your child's teacher. Please make sure to arrive to your conference on time so the schedule runs smoothly for all.



All conferences are scheduled through Genesis, parents will be able to do so via the Parent Portal beginning on Monday, October 13 at 10am. Please refer to [THESE](#) directions for assistance. Your child's classroom teacher will keep track of parent sign ups through their account. The window to sign up for conferences will end at 4pm on Wednesday, October 22. Any changes will need to be communicated directly with the teacher following that date.

You'll receive confirmation of your conference and more information will be shared towards the end of October, including links for virtual conferences.

Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions.

NJSLA Field Testing



With changes made on the State level to our New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Platform, all 4th grade students will be participating in a Fall Field Test throughout the week of November 10th. Since this Field Test is an assessment of the platform's capabilities, we will not receive assessment results for your child. As always, when it comes to all standardized assessments, there is nothing you need to do on your end to prepare your child for the NJSLA Fall Field Test.

PTA Happenings

Our Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have so much to offer to students and families and they are instrumental in supporting our teachers and schools! Special thanks to our Welcome Week, Open House and Back to School Night and Hospitality volunteers and the support for upcoming trips and assemblies! Check out the MES PTA website for upcoming events such as the Staff Kickball Game, fundraisers such as the Cheesecake Sale and volunteer opportunities! [The Montgomery Elementary School PTA \(MESPTA\)](#)



Learn about the mission and goals of the [Montgomery Special Education PTA \(MSEPTA\)](#) and ways you can get involved!

Fall 2025 Health Office News



Students' annual state mandatory Health Screening is taking place for all students at VES. The screening consists of Height, weight and blood pressure measurements as well as a vision and hearing screening. If your child does not pass any part of the health screening, you will receive a medical referral letter to discuss with your child's health care provider.

Thank you,

Mrs. Cizin and Ms. Tang

Glass Containers

To ensure the safety of all students we recommend not sending glass containers for lunch. Please send an unbreakable alternative. Thank you!

Cold Weather and Recess

Students think with clearer brains when they have a chance to get moving. To help with this, we will be holding recess whenever the weather allows. Please expect that we are planning for outdoor recess and dress your child accordingly. Hats, gloves, scarf, a heavy jacket and appropriate footwear are **MUST HAVES!**

Be sure to label your child's belongings so we can easily return lost items. Check the Lost and Found during your visits as unclaimed items will be donated.



Young Scholars Institute Project



Our 31st annual schoolwide holiday fundraiser and gift project will take place in December to help support children who are part of this program in Trenton. We will also be collecting brand new school supplies. Please expect more information from your child's teacher as December approaches.

Important Dates

[MTSD District Calendar 2025-2026](#)

October 20: Schools Closed, Staff Development

October 22: Back to School Staff Kickball Game 4:30 pm, OHES Field

October 31: Halloween Readers Theater and Class Parties

November 3-5: Parent Teacher Conferences; Early/1:35 Dismissal for Students (Lunch is served on early dismissal days. Recess is canceled. Parent pickup will begin at 1:20)

November 6-7: Schools Closed, New Jersey Teachers Convention

November 26: Early/1:35 Dismissal

November 27-28: Schools Closed, Fall/Thanksgiving Recess

December 23: Early/1:35 Dismissal for Students

December 24-31, January 2: Winter Recess

January 5: Schools Reopen