WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

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Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Happy August! We are excited to welcome your student to the Middle School in just a few weeks. Our sixth grade will be starting out the year with our dynamic signature trip to Frost Valley Environmental Center and we will need some information from you very soon!

From **September 30 -- October 2, 2026**, your child will be participating in a residential, outdoor-educational experience at Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, NY. The trip will take place leaving Wednesday morning (7 a.m.), September 30, and returning Friday, October 2, in the afternoon.

Frost Valley provides an interdisciplinary program that allows students to learn about the environment in a hands-on manner. Students and teachers use this "extended classroom" to understand the natural environment and how it relates to other subjects while experiencing the dynamics of residential group living. The program includes activities such as examining the natural resources of the Catskill region, investigating pond water, and building confidence through group challenges. A variety of field walks, service opportunities and evening activities endure an exciting and stimulating experience.

While at Frost Valley, students are supervised 24 hours a day. The chaperones for this trip include Mrs. Andrea Barnett (Trip Leader) as well as members of the sixth grade teaching team. In addition, Frost Valley has permanent staff residing on-site, including environmental educators. We will also have access to the Frost Valley Health Center, a 24-hour facility with a full time Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, and EMT.

There is no requirement that students undergo a medical examination before attending Frost Valley, but **please have your child's physician sign off on the Written Physician-Parent Permission form included here.** The program is physically intensive, and you may wish to consult your physician if there are any concerns that should be brought to our attention**.** Adding permissions for OTC medications can be very helpful to us.

A clothing and equipment checklist is provided. Save this list for use when packing. Particular care should be taken in supplying layered clothing and rain gear for fall weather, ample socks, footwear, and pants as students frequently participate in activities in wet areas. Clothing should be selected for comfort and durability, rather than style. **Students are not to bring knives, electronics of any kind, food, or money**. This is an all-inclusive trip, so students do not need to bring any money with them.

It is important to note that **students may NOT have cell phones**. There is no reliable cell service at Frost Valley. A telephone is available onsite for parents to call only in the case of an emergency. The Frost Valley phone number is (845) 985-2291.

Meals at Frost Valley are prepared by a permanent cooking staff and are served family style. Vegetarian fare is available at all meals. Special dietary needs should be noted on the student health form. **Please**

share with Mrs. Barnett via email as soon as possible if your child has special dietary needs. Snacks will be provided each evening before bedtime. Students will be housed in dorm style lodges with modern indoor plumbing.

Students appreciate receiving mail during their stay at Frost Valley, but to be safe, allow four - five days for delivery. Mail posted midweek may not reach Frost Valley until after the group has left. You may wish to post your mail the Saturday before the trip. Please include the name of both the student and the school to assist in delivery. Mail should be addressed as follows:

First and Last Name of Student
% Wardlaw+Hartridge School
Frost Valley YMCA
2000 Frost Valley Road
Claryville, NY 12725

Please complete and return the first three enclosed forms (in bold below) to Ms. Eileen Valentine in the Middle School Office by Monday, September 14th. We will have a parent information meeting during orientation on Tuesday September 1st. If you have any further questions, please contact me via email: abarnett@whschool.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Andrea Barnett

Mrs. Andrea Barnett
6th Grade Coordinator
Science Department Co-Chair
MS Science Teacher

Enclosures:

- **Frost Valley Physician & Parent Medication Permission Form**
- **Frost Valley Student Health Form/Authorization to treat//Student Waiver of Liability**
- **Frost Valley School Trip Behavior Contract**
- Frost Valley "Packing" List