

Noreen Garvey
Joe Giannantonio
Westchester Hills School 29

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| Date: | September 2020 |
| Classes: | SC-10 Room 116 SC-11 Room 110 |



Welcome Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another school year at Westchester Hills PS 29. We are incredibly pleased to be serving as your child's teachers. Our class aides this school year will be Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Roxanne. Ms. Cierra and Ms. Jen will also be joining us this school year as 1:1 aides for two of our students. As you know we will be working via a digital platform throughout the month of September. We expect to transition to traditional in school instruction on Monday October 5. We expect that students may experience hesitancy and/ or anxiety when that occurs. This is a normal reaction that any of us may experience in similar circumstances. However, we are confident that with a return to a more structured routine than we can provide in distance learning setting will facilitate a return to normalcy for all. Ms. Garvey and I look forward to a productive and exciting 2020-2021 school year.

A primary goal of our classes will be to improve each student's ability to function independently in the home, school, society, and workplace. We will be following all the new safeguard and parameters upon returning school. Handwashing, social distancing, and frequent sanitizing will be a mandatory part of each school day. We will be working on a variety of functional and vocational skills such as identifying and utilizing tools, woodworking, completing forms, utilizing community resources such as bus and train schedules, newspapers, catalogs, maps, etc. as well as general resources such as a dictionary, thesaurus and online search engines. We will utilize these activities to foster and/or reinforce academic skills. We will once again be working on several ecology/ environmental projects this year and taking care of various class and school pets. Our over-riding cross curricular theme this year will be **MOTORS, MACHINES AND ROBOTICS**. If permitted, we hope to organize several interactive projects related to this theme. Additionally, we plan to continue our woodworking projects, scrapbooking, and rocketry unit. More information on these also will follow. We plan on implementing these projects and units as safely as possible and will make any modifications needed when necessary.

Upon returning to in class instruction, we will be sending home a copy of their daily schedule which will outline that day's lessons/activities, its completion and/or progress as well as any comments regarding their day, questions, etc. Class Dojo and Microsoft Teams will be utilized for parent/teacher communication during distance learning, hybrid learning and in-person instruction.

Once we begin implementation of our daily schedule please review and email us with any questions/concerns. Once students return, we will begin assessing each student and review some of the things that were covered during the second half of the school year as well as our September instruction. We will then jump right into our new classroom routine.

Homework assignments will begin approximately three to four weeks after classroom instruction has been initiated (In person assessments will have been completed). These assignments will serve as both a review and a reinforcement of classroom instruction. Each child will be assigned a vocabulary, spelling, and math group. All homework assignments will be delivered digitally (paper assignments will only be provided for specific projects or if a special circumstance arises.) In addition, **reading to and or with your child for at least 20 - 30 minutes each night** will prepare him/her for further academic development – a Daily Reading log will be available online for your child once homework begins.

As always, we thank you for your support and dedication, both to your child and to our school community! We are looking forward to another productive and exciting school year.

Sincerely,
Ms. Noreen & Mr. G