



Kissel Hill Elementary School
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Dear Amazing Students, Kissel Hill Families, and Kissel Hill Staff,

We often hear that “seeing is believing,” however, it is often *feeling* that allows us to open our eyes clearly to see the greatness ahead. This summer, the world watched closely as athletes from around the globe came to Rio to compete in the Summer Olympics. While the Olympics deserve excited anticipation, the sporting event my family looks forward to the most each summer is the Little League World Series. Game after game, fans are given an opportunity to view sportsmanship at its finest...teams competitive and empathetic, passionate and professional, humble winners and disappointed teams, yet graceful, in the face of defeat. In a world where so often we ask our young learners to look to adults for guidance, this magnificent event presents an opportunity for adults to look to these remarkable young athletes as the pinnacle of individuals working to better oneself and a greater community simultaneously.

As I watch heartwarming moments in these games, I often ask myself - “How did this player and team arrive at such behavior? To see this happen from time to time is common, but team after team of exemplar sportsmanship...what is the secret?” And then you see it...you can’t blink or you will miss it. A smile off screen, a quick glance to the stadium seating after a strike, eye contact and a head nod through light tears...it is a connection with a parent or coach. These athletes, though powerful, are not perfect...but they are indeed great. 99% of the time they are able to see greatness ahead and believe that they are capable of reaching it. Yet there are moments when they feel the weight of a situation and may start to wonder if greatness is really their path. And when they look up with question in their eyes, their glances are met by Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Coach, etc. While their mouths may be closed, the gaze of the adult speaks loudly...it says “don’t you dare think that your circumstance reduces your worth. You’ve been valuable since the moment I’ve known you, and you are more powerful than any barrier.” These exchanges are invisible to those who are not looking, but are nutrients for the heart to each of the players.

The active role of helping a child learn and grow is more important, more complex, than any string of explanations and metaphors available for use. Whether you go by the name Mom, Dad, Nanny, Grandpa, Aunt, Uncle, or Teacher - your ability to instill a feeling of efficacy in your child and student is of incredible worth. To our students - your ability to be a world changer begins now. Don’t wait for signs pointing to the right moment to make a difference...the moment is always right to say “thank you” or “I care.” And if you find yourself ever questioning your worth, look to the adults at home who love you, your teachers, or walk directly into my office...it will be our pleasure to have you look in the mirror to stare at a superstar!

As we open our 2016 – 2017 school year, I cannot promise you perfection or an easy road. I will commit, however, to an environment filled with professionals ready to meet the questioning gaze of “am I worth it,” with an unwavering **ALWAYS**. From the Berardi Family to your family - best wishes for a year of learning and difference making. It is going to be a great one!

Sincerely,

G E L L A
Melissa Berardi (u)
Ryan P. Berardi (u) (smile)

Ryan P. Berardi, Ed.D.
Principal
Kissel Hill Elementary



P.S. Please turn over for important information!

-*-*- A Few Important Notes -*-*-

- Is your child in need of a backpack for the school year? Please contact our office at (717) 626 – 3703 if we can assist you in your time of need.
- Back to School Night is right around the corner! Kissel Hill has Back to School Night planned for September 29th starting at 6:30 PM. A more detailed schedule (by grade level) will be coming out closer to the date.
- Stay connected with the great things our Kissel Hill Climbers are doing! You can follow us on Twitter at @KisselHillWSD. Additionally, look for a notice of a monthly vodcast (video share) starting this year to help all families stay connected!
- Breakfast is available every morning (with exception to weather related late starts) in our Climber Café. Students who are dropped off, or walking, may enter as early as 7:45 AM to travel directly to the cafeteria to eat. Student safety is of paramount importance. For that reason, please do not drop students off earlier than 7:45 AM as adult supervision is not available. Additionally, students who arrive by bus must check in with their homeroom teacher first to ensure they are marked “present,” before traveling to breakfast. Students may eat breakfast until 8:10 AM.
- We love to have parent volunteers! Opportunities to do so vary from grade level to grade level. We pledge safety to all students and families, therefore, the first step is ensuring all of your clearances are completed and approved by our School Board. All paperwork is available on Kissel Hill’s Webpage (right-hand side) by navigating to www.warwicksd.org and clicking the Kissel Hill Tab. If you are interested, please reach out to your child’s homeroom teacher for opportunities.
- Do you have a copy of our Parent and Student Handbook? It is a wealth of information and is available on Kissel Hill’s Webpage (right-hand side) by navigating to www.warwicksd.org and clicking the Kissel Hill Tab.
- Are you planning an educational trip during the school year, or do you have a question about a certain type of absence? In addition to information being found in the Parent & Student Handbook, educational trip forms are available on Kissel Hill’s Webpage (right-hand side) by navigating to www.warwicksd.org and clicking the Kissel Hill Tab. **Please note that Educational Trips must be submitted and approved prior to the trip taking place.**
- National School Lunch Week events are coming up in October. We have a dramatically larger number of guests on these days with the continued promise to keep all students safe. In all elementary schools this year, Kindergarten and 1st Grade will celebrate National School Lunch Week by opening their café to parents. More information to come.
- Please note the addition of cameras positioned on our school buses, cafeteria, and front/rear entrances. Additionally, our school district welcomes Officer Savage as Warwick’s School Resource Officer. Already a well-known public servant in Lititz, we are excited for the community building and proactive approach to safety that he brings to all of our schools.
- Kissel Hill is pleased to be constructed as an “accessible school” for individuals with varying transportation needs. Our “accessible parking” spaces are governed by PA law and must remain available for vehicles with designated tags or mirror hangers. Please use any other space, or our additional lots, for all other parking purposes regardless of length of stay. Additionally, we thank you for not parking in the area by our dumpsters as students often walk unexpectedly across this opening as they travel to and from school.
- To help with student safety, please ensure that you do not leave your car during student drop-off or pick-up. Within the drop-off loop, the left lane is used for through traffic, and the right lane is used for drop off. Students should exit from the right-hand side of the car so that they do not have to travel in front of traffic.
- Are you new to Kissel Hill? No worries...we are ready to help your student find his/her classroom! If your student is unsure how to travel to his/her classroom, he/she should turn left immediately after entering the school. A number of staff members will be ready with smiles and the ability to help your child travel to his/her room!