



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

There are a few perks to being the principal! One of them is the privilege of being one of the first faces to greet new and returning students during our summer months. As I watch families approach the school sidewalk, I can hardly contain myself. Frequently (if you are a new family this year, you've experienced this) I'm out the door by about step four or five toward our building. I simply can't help it...letting our students know how excited we are that they are here is perhaps the best part of being an educator. At Warwick we believe every student must know that they have great value. We strive daily to let our kiddos know that we desire to learn about them, that we marvel at the personal goals they reach each year, and that they matter...we *see* them.

My message to our exiting 6th graders last year underscored the power of letting someone know that you "see them." In a culture where we are always looking to fit one more task into a busy day, it would be easy to stay focused on a singular project, paper, assessment, etc. Our students are hungry for learning – who could blame them for their desire to attend to a task with every ounce of energy they have? Truly, our students impress me with their academic output every day. As a Kissel Hill Community, however, we are so much more. We are parents giving of our time to ensure our new kindergarteners feel comfortable eating lunch like the "big kids." We are teachers spending summer hours driving to Kissel Hill week after week to give students a boost in their English learning. We are students who decide that they should write positive messages on sticky notes to post around the school because they recognize the power of spreading good news. We are a community of individuals who recognize the potential of their impact and act upon it. This is a community of learners that makes me excited about the future, and reminds me that there are 560 perks to being the principal at Kissel Hill that sit at the desks in each of our classrooms.

As we begin our 2017 – 2018 school year, please accept my deepest gratitude for empowering your children to change the world daily through their actions and words. I do not know what surprises this year will hold, but I can hardly wait! As the buses approach tomorrow, I'm confident I'll be charging out the door as the first sight of yellow rounds the corner. I've never been good at waiting – thank goodness the day is here tomorrow! Best wishes for an amazing start to the year. I'm only ever a phone call/email away – please never hesitate to contact me so that I can serve you in the most complete manner possible. On behalf of the Berardi Family, welcome back! It's going to be another great year to be a Climber!

Sincerely,

G E L L A
Melissa Berardi ☺
Ryan P. Berardi ☺
(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 12th starting at 6:00 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) 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 presence of cameras positioned on our school buses, cafeteria, and front/rear entrances. Additionally, our school district is pleased to work with Officer Savage as Warwick’s School Resource Officer. Already a well-known public servant in Lititz, we continue to be 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!