Dear Families,

My name is Elisa Barbera and I am very excited to be your child's teacher for the 2020-2021 school year! This will be my second year as a Bridge Valley Trailblazer, and I am so happy to welcome your children back, as well as meet new friends! I had the wonderful experience of serving as the Building Substitute for Bridge Valley this past school year, and in that capacity I have been fortunate to spend time in all of our autistic support classrooms, gaining invaluable knowledge and experience. This has enabled me to get to know your children, learning their preferences and strengths, while supporting them in areas of challenge. In addition to serving as the Building Substitute, I was also a Long-Term Substitute Teacher in an autistic support classroom here at BV, teaching virtually during the last trimester. This past summer, I taught ESY as well.

To provide some background information about myself, I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master's degree in Education from Arcadia University. I have a dual certification in General Education Pre-K-4 and Special Education Pre-K-8. I have been working in the Central Bucks School District since 2014, serving as a Substitute Educational Assistant, Substitute Teacher, Building Substitute, and held multiple Long-Term Substitute Teacher positions in autistic support. Additionally, I am the parent of a child who has autism, and I believe that gives me a unique perspective as a teacher, allowing me to view situations through the lens of an educator as well as an empathetic caregiver.

We have an amazing support staff in our classroom, and as a team we will continue to set each child up for success academically, socially, and emotionally, while providing each student with his/her own individualized supports. Please feel free to contact me at any time to share information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns you may have. Please reach out if there is anything you need, and I am greatly looking forward to our new school year! Thank you!

> Sincerely, Elisa Barbera, M.Ed ebarbera@cbsd.org