

Bridge Valley Elementary School

Family Handbook

2024-2025



Principal - Mrs. Stacey Pedersen

Assistant Principal - Ms. Kate Deibert

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Bridge Valley at a Glance

The ABC's of Bridge Valley



Dear Families,

Welcome Back! Bridge Valley is an exceptional place for children to learn and grow. The teachers and staff are eager to provide your child with an exceptional year of learning.

This handbook has been created to help define our school's general procedures, rules, protocols, and policies. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with its contents and to review the appropriate sections with your child. You will find this is organized in alphabetical order to more easily find important information. New information is marked "NEW".

We encourage you to be an active participant in your child's education by maintaining a strong line of communication with his/her classroom teacher. We also invite you to join our Home & School Association. There are many opportunities for you to get involved throughout the year.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office at 267-893-3700. It is our hope that this school year will be exciting, engaging, and academically rewarding for all our students!

Sincerely,
Stacey Pedersen
Principal

Bridge Valley at A Glance

District Calendar ([found here](#))

DAILY SCHEDULE

School Office Hours 8:00 AM-4:15 PM

267.893.3700

Doors Open for All Students-----8:15AM

Students' Day-----8:35 AM to 3:15 PM

Kindergarten AM Session -----8:35 AM to 11:10 AM

Kindergarten PM Session -----12:40 AM to 3:15 PM

Morning Routines/Daily Announcements----- 8:35 AM

(Students arriving after 8:35 are marked tardy)

Attendance questions should be directed to our Attendance Secretary
Mrs. Ricki Herman, 267-893-7698

Dismissal on half days is as follows:

Kindergarten –11:10AM: This does not change from the regularly scheduled time.

Grades 1st -6th - 11:55 AM

Office Staff:

Mrs. Heather Gale – Administrative Assistant, Principal

Mrs. Joanne Hamilton - Administrative Assistant, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Ricki Herman – Attendance Secretary

Mrs. Jenny Leung - Office Assistant

Our offices will be closed on:

September. 2nd Labor Day

November 28th and 29th Thanksgiving Break

December 23rd - January 1st Winter Holidays

January 20th Martin Luther King Day

February 17th President's Day

April 18th Good Friday

May 26th Memorial Day

July 4th Independence Day

Absences and Tardiness

A major factor in students' school is regular attendance during normal school hours as required by state law. When a child is absent from school, it should be put into the Parent Portal. If this is not done, a written excuse signed by the parent or guardian must be sent to the teacher/office within three days of the child's return. An absence not explained by an excuse note, submitted within three days of the child's return to school, is recorded as an illegal absence. If an excuse is not submitted for any absence, the student will be considered illegally absent that day(s). Illegal absences will be shown as "unexcused"

NEW: All absences should be put in Infinite Campus (IC) through your family Parent Portal. You can access Parent Portal (IC) on your phone or computer. Please do not email teachers or call the office. If you do not have internet access please reach out to Mrs. Pedersen. All absences are documented as unlawful until a note is received. Communicable diseases such as measles or chicken pox must be reported to the school nurse as soon as they are diagnosed. Absences due to family travel must be approved in advance by the principal. The limit for family vacation days is five (5) school days. A form is available on the CB and Bridge Valley websites for these occasions. If your child misses more than 10 days of school (chronic absenteeism), you will receive a letter indicating this, further absences will require a note from a physician.

Student tardiness is strongly discouraged since it impacts directly on the continuity of instruction for the individual child as well as the class as a whole. A student who arrives after 8:35 a.m. is considered tardy. A child who arrives between 8:35 and 8:40 a.m. should proceed directly to the classroom where the lateness will be recorded by the teacher. Students who arrive after 8:40 a.m. should report to the office before proceeding to class. Students who are tardy due to medical or dental appointments, for example, should bring a note from the parent or doctor in order to be excused. Frequent absence or tardiness by individual students will be addressed through an administrative intervention.

According to the State Law, the following excuses qualify as excused absences:

1. Religious Holiday
2. Illness
3. Education trips - such a trip will be excused only with prior written approval by the principal. **Limited to five days per school year.**
4. Death in the family

BAND

Eligible for students in 5th and 6th grade. Lessons begin early in the year. Sixth Grade beginners are welcome on any instrument except percussion. Students from other schools who already play are most welcome. Students attend one 30-minute lesson a week on a pullout basis in small groups. Lessons are free of charge. Students must provide leased or owned instruments. An information session for all interested students will be held during the first weeks of school.

BIRTHDAYS

In conjunction with the Central Bucks School District Wellness Initiative and the Nutrition Standards set by the Department of Education, students are not permitted to bring in edible treats. With the teacher's permission, students may celebrate their birthday by doing one of the following:

- Students may bring in pencils, stickers, bookmarks, etc...
- Students may want to have a family member visit the classroom for a special reading/activity to celebrate the birthday
- Contact the librarian to donate a book in their honor to our school library.

Birthdays during the school year will be announced during morning announcements.

Birthday party invitations should only be sent into school if they are distributed to the whole class.

BLAZER BLESSINGS

The school nurse and guidance office help families within the Bridge Valley Community in times of need or crisis. Contact the Nurse's office for more information or if you are in need of assistance.

BLAZER BONUS

A certificate that may be awarded by staff to BV students when they demonstrate one of the four character traits: **Respect, Responsibility, Collaboration, and Citizenship**.

Every Friday a Blazer Bonus is randomly drawn from each grade level. That student's name is announced during the morning announcements to come to the guidance office to choose a prize from the Treasure Box and get their photo taken. The objective of the program is to provide frequent positive reinforcement for students displaying the character traits emphasized in our mission statement.

BRIDGE VALLEY DAY

Held once a month, usually the last day of the month. When possible, a school wide assembly is held. Students wear school colors, their Bridge Valley T-shirts, or BridgeValley spirit wear. Special activities such as "Buddy Class" and healthy walks are included in the day.

BUSING

The Central Bucks School District transports approximately 20,000 students daily to approximately 75 schools, each having special starting and dismissal times. The District establishes school bus schedules with a fifteen (15) minute start and dismissal time variance. Each bus is scheduled to arrive within (15) minutes of their start time and pick up students using the same time frame. For example, if dismissal time is 3:15 PM buses may be scheduled to arrive at school for pick-up at 3:30 PM. Please consider the built-in variability in the bus schedule when anticipating the arrival of your children.

NEW All students in grade K, 1st, and 2nd must have an adult at the bus stop to be dropped off, unless they have an older sibling. If there is no adult at the stop the child will be returned to school and a parent will be called to pick them up.

Bus riders are expected to follow the bus driver's directions, to obey all safety rules, and to treat others with courtesy while riding the school bus. Students who misbehave and violate safety regulations may lose the privilege of riding the school bus. Safety rules and regulations are explained in the School District's calendar. Problems which occur at the bus stop should be reported to the bus driver as well as the school principal.

Students may not ride any bus other than the one to which they have been assigned. Requests for changes will not be granted for temporary periods except in emergency situations. All such requests must be made through the office of the principal.

CELL PHONES/SMART WATCHES

NEW In keeping with the CBSD school board policy (829.1) The Board prohibits the use of any personal electronic device by any elementary school student while in district buildings, on district property and grounds including on district buses, and at school-sponsored activities. An electronic device that is possessed by any student in school buildings or on district property must remain powered off and always kept out of sight except in specific circumstances and at times with teacher permission for instructional purposes. You can see the full policy [here](#), under Operations.

Understanding this policy and the makeup of our student body, students who wear a personal communication device (smartwatch) should have it turned off once they are on school property. Students should not call or text from school without notifying their teacher. All students are permitted to use the classroom, main office, or nurse's office phone. If your child has a cell phone or wears a smart watch, please discuss these guidelines with them and the consequences below. Students should not be texting during the school day on **ANY** device. The staff of Bridge Valley are here to **help** and **support** your child through any situation. Students should seek adult assistance if they feel ill or upset.

- 1st offense – Warning by teacher to turn device off and place in backpack.
- 2nd offense – Device is removed and given to the teacher, returned at the end of the day. Teacher will communicate this with parent/guardian.
- 3rd and repeated offense – Device is removed and given to the principal. The principal will call home, the device will be picked up by the parent. The student will then leave their device at home or keep it turned off and kept in their backpack.

COMPUTER USE

Proper Use of Computers and Networks

The use of computers and technology in the Central Bucks School District is designed to have a positive impact on curriculum and instruction for all students.

Technology will be used:

- within the curriculum to enhance student learning and achievement
- to assist students in becoming competent in the use of technology, with an increasing degree of sophistication as they move from level to level
- as a tool to enhance creativity and encourage the completion of quality products
- to access technology-based information relevant to curriculum topics

NEW Use of the Internet

The Internet is a valuable educational tool used in our classrooms. Throughout the year, the students will be asked to access the Internet for various projects. Some of these projects will include:

- ✓ Researching additional information for projects
- ✓ Creating PowerPoint presentations and/or Infographics
- ✓ Creating and editing movies
- ✓ Learning the most efficient ways to use search engines
- ✓ Importing royalty free clip art and images
- ✓ Taking some assessments

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network, just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Please review [School Board Policy 815](#) for details regarding the acceptable use of electronic resources.

DISCIPLINE CODE

Bridge Valley students adhere to a code of behavior adopted during our opening year.*

<i>Treat others with <u>respect</u> & kindness</i>	<i>Take <u>responsibility</u> for your own behavior</i>	<i>Be a <u>collaborative</u> learner</i>	<i>Display <u>citizenship</u></i>
Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use respectful language• Respect other's property• Ask to borrow or use the property of others• Respect the school building• Follow directions given by a school staff member• Resolve differences in a cooperative way• Not engage in passive or active bullying behavior	Students are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following classroom rules• Not bringing inappropriate belongings to school• Wearing appropriate clothing to school• Telling the truth• Not engaging in any behavior that would jeopardize the safety of others• Using the playground equipment safely and following playground rules• Not chewing gum, running, or wearing hats in school• Displaying appropriate behavior in the cafeteria• Displaying appropriate behavior on the bus	Students will strive to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work cooperatively with others• Be sensitive to other's feelings• Be good listeners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will: display citizenship by respecting authority, following rules and being an active participant in making the school community a better place

* Complete copies of the Bridge Valley Elementary School Code of Conduct can be obtained via your child's teacher, the student support counselor and/or the main office.

DISMISSAL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

No child is permitted to leave school property without authorization from the office of the principal. If a child must be picked up before the close of school, please **send a written note** to the teacher or **call the office** the day of the early dismissal. DO NOT email the teacher during the day. Teachers often do not see emails as they come in.

All children should be met at the school office and signed out. If you need to pick up your child unexpectedly, go to the office for assistance.

If a student needs to be sent home due to illness the school nurse or office personnel will contact you to arrange pickup. **Students are not permitted to use their cell phone to call parents to pick them up while school is in session.** Students are permitted to call a parent from the classroom phone or office. If you receive a call, please telephone the school office for verification.

DRESS STANDARDS

NEW: When creating guidelines for dress we keep two important factors in mind: 1) Bridge Valley is a learning community. Our goal is to focus on learning and minimize distractions. 2) Students express their individuality through their clothing choices. With this in mind, it is both the responsibility of home and school to discuss and monitor appropriate dress for the setting in which they are in. If a student is wearing an item that is inappropriate for school a staff member will contact the parent/guardian so they may bring a new item of clothing to school. If we cannot reach a parent/guardian students will borrow one of our clean, extra items from our nurse's office.

Examples of clothing that is not appropriate for school:

- Clothing with messages or pictures which show drug or alcohol symbols/products, cigarette advertisement, sexual innuendo, violence or hate
- Clothing which reveals undergarments
- Tops or bottoms which are cut low and are revealing
- **Hats and Hoods** are not permitted in school. Students may wear a hat/hood at recess and on designated Spirit Days. Students will be asked to store their hat in their backpack for the instructional day.

EMERGENCY DRILLS AND EVACUATIONS

The school laws of Pennsylvania require that each school conduct at least one fire drill per month and at least one school security drill within the first 90 days of school. Students are taught to leave the building quickly and quietly upon hearing the fire alarm and to move to an area of safety under the direction of school staff members. They are not to stop for personal items. Parents can help safeguard their children by impressing upon them the importance of fire drills. In addition, the school holds mandatory emergency drills. These drills are a way to ensure students know what to do in case of an emergency. Some drills will require us leave school grounds and walk, by class, to nearby "rally points". The procedures for both inside the school and outside the school events are reviewed with students and staff, at various times during the year, to ensure safety under all conditions.

E-FRIDAY FOLDERS

Check out the school district website at: www.cbsd.org each week for community fliers from a variety of youth groups from Scouts to Sports. Outside organizations may not distribute information through the schools. To add your organization's flier to the E-Friday folder, contact efridayfolder@cbsd.org. Guidelines for E-Friday folder are on the district website.

EMERGENCY CLOSING / EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

Should it be necessary for you to take your child out of school for any reason during the school day, it should be entered into the Parent Portal. A note to the office is accepted when you cannot access Parent Portal. When you come to school to pick up your child, please report to the office. The office staff will call your child from the classroom and you will be asked to sign your child out. If your child will be returning to school on the same day, please bring your child back to the office, so that he/she can be signed back in.

Early dismissal or transportation messages must not be left as voice mail messages in the teacher's voice mailbox. Teachers typically do not retrieve voice mail messages until after the conclusion of the student day.

CALL - 267-893-3700

If your child wishes to go home with a friend, a note is needed from both parents. Children must be car riders, transportation regulations prohibit the use of the bus for such visits.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

NEW If a school closure should become necessary (i.e. close school for the day, open one or two hours late, or dismiss early), the information can be received in several ways: www.cbsd.org, local news stations, Twitter; text message, for those parents who registered at www.cbsd.org, or email, to parent addresses registered in the Parent Portal. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.** If a situation arises at Bridge Valley that requires an early dismissal, students will be dismissed according to the district determination and by procedures outlined by parents on the **School Emergency Closing Form**. Phone notification by the school will occur only in individual emergency situations. It is, therefore, **imperative that home, work, and emergency numbers be continually updated by parents on both emergency forms and in the Parent Portal.**

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD KNOWS WHERE TO GO IF SCHOOL CLOSES EARLY.

FIELD TRIPS

Children are taken on field trips to provide educational experiences available only outside the school. All field trips are under the supervision of the classroom teacher with assistance from teacher selected parent chaperones. Classrooms use a lottery system to select among many willing field trip chaperones. All chaperones are required to have state mandated clearances.

Before any trips may be taken, a permission slip must be signed by the parent and returned to the teacher. Should a student not return the permission slip, arrangements will be made for that student to remain with another class in the school.

FOOD SERVICES

NEW All students eat in the cafeteria whether they buy or bring their lunch. A well-balanced hot lunch is available each day. For students with packed lunches, cartons of milk are sold separately. Ice cream and snacks are also available. Prices and daily choices appear on the MENU which is in the Bridge Valley newsletter and on the district website.

*Free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches are available to families who demonstrate financial need. Interested parents are encouraged to complete the online application found on the CBSD website, [Free and Reduced Lunch Application and Information](#)

In the event that a child forgets his or her lunch, a lunch will be provided. Families can set up and monitor their child's lunch account through MySchoolBucks, found on the district website. [Food Services / Welcome \(cbsd.org\)](#)

FREE and REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

Families may apply for free and reduced lunches at any time throughout the school year. The application is available online at [here](#). Once enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, families will be eligible to receive financial assistance in other programs throughout the school year. (Yearbook, Field Trips, Holiday Boutiques (student shopping), Holiday Gift Drive, Winter Coat/Hat/Gloves Supplies, Technology Devices, Fall and Spring Book Fair, Spring Fair, Home & School Events, etc.)

Further information on the School Health Services and Insurance can be found, [here](#).

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

A Holiday Shop set up in December for the students by the HSA. It allows the students an opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Bridge Valley Home and School Association is very active in the life of the school. You are encouraged to become a partner with us in the education of your child. The Home and School Association (HSA) sponsors many programs and activities such as: student assemblies, book fairs, family fun nights, festivals, Holiday Boutique, and much, much more. Additional information about these and other activities will be provided during the school year. Check out the Home & School [website](#).

HOMELESS EDUCATION ACT: McKinney-Vento

About Homeless Act-McKinney Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act guarantees a free and appropriate public education for all homeless children and youth. B.E.C. 42 U.S.C. 11431 outlines procedures for deciding school placement, enrolling students, and determining responsibility. Federal and state laws make our responsibility clear. With the huge number of homeless children currently attending Philadelphia public schools, we must provide proper educational support and services.

McKinney-Vento Act Basics At-a-Glance:

What is the definition of a “homeless youth” under McKinney-Vento?

“Homeless” is defined as “anyone lacking a fixed, adequate, regular nighttime residence.”

What situations fit this definition?

- Staying in the home of other people due to unavailable housing, financial hardship, or similar circumstances
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (in some instances – examples: leaking roof, no heat, etc.), public places, or campgrounds due to unavailable suitable housing options
- Living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing
- Unaccompanied (not living in direct care of legal parent or guardian) or runaway youth
- Refugee and migrant youth

How does McKinney-Vento help these students?

The law makes sure that these students receive a free and suitable public education by removing barriers to school enrollment and full, basic, daily participation in school activities. This includes:

- Immediate enrollment
- Free and Reduced School Lunch
- Help from school with any necessary enrollment documents
- Help from school setting up transportation service (if the student qualifies)
- Help from school with getting basic uniform clothing
- Help from school with basic school supplies
- Help from school with any basic clothing needs
- Help from school with basic high school graduation needs and expenses

Where can I find more information for Pennsylvania? You can visit the PA Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness site.

HOMEROOM PARENT / CLASSROOM COORDINATOR

Each class has a Classroom Coordinator. This parent coordinates the classroom volunteers for activities and parties. Please make sure your information is correct with your homeroom parent.

NEW This year we will utilize this link to collect parent emails and information for our Classroom Coordinators to share classroom party information, grade level events, and school wide event information. Please fill out this form for each child you have (it requires you to submit one survey response for each child by clicking into the link separate times). BVE [Parent Information Collection Survey](#)

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to promote the growth of student knowledge and to reinforce that which is learned in the classroom. Homework should be used as an addition to and extension of daily instruction. It should provide the student with relevant practice and the opportunity to utilize learned concepts. Homework will vary by grade level and teacher. Not all teachers assign nightly homework.

NEW The amount of CONCENTRATED work time suggested for homework on a school day varies with grade level:

Grade 1 - 10 minutes	Grade 4 - 40 minutes
Grade 2 - 20 minutes	Grade 5 - 50 minutes
Grade 3 - 30 minutes	Grade 6 - 60 minutes

The responsibility for doing homework rests with the student. Parents or others in the family are requested not to do the homework for their child but to act as a resource or helper. If a child has difficulty completing homework, parents are asked to send a note to the classroom teacher informing them of the issue.

If your child is absent for **more than two days** and you wish to request homework, please call the main office at 267-893-3700 before the student lunch hour, allowing adequate time for the teacher to prepare a listing of the assignments.

ILLNESS

The school nurse provides care to students who become ill or are injured at school. If a child has symptoms of illness present, he/she should remain home in order that other children do not become infected. As a rule of thumb, a child should be without fever for 24 hours before returning to school. Sick children should never be sent to school with the expectation that the school nurse can be called upon to diagnose a medical problem.

Our Certified School Nurse is Kristen Long, she may be reached at 267-893-3673.

LIBRARY BOOK DEDICATION

This is a great way to celebrate birthdays, express teacher appreciation etc. With a \$20 donation, we will place your dedication on a bookplate within a book of your choice or one selected by the school librarian. Forms are available in the library, please contact Mrs. Hauck for more information.

LUNCH PROGRAM

School lunches and breakfast are available for purchase. You can create or add to your child's school lunch account through MySchoolBucks.com or by visiting the Central Bucks SD Food Services webpage [HERE](#). Students may purchase breakfast in the cafeteria. No lunch service will be provided on early dismissal days.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

The 2024-2025 Lunch/Recess Schedule is as follows:

2024-2025 Lunch/Recess Schedule

<i>Grade Level</i>		<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Recess</i>
Sixth Grade Moyer, Schweitzer, Scott, Wyss, Breslin	5	11:00-11:30	10:30-11:00
Fourth Grade Chaplin, Niland, Pobst, Schmoyer, Herman	5	11:30-12:00	12:00-12:30
Fifth Grade Kelly, Ziska, Lowery, Smith	4	12:00-12:30	12:30-1:00
First Grade Ledwith, Tate, Volpe, Stapp	4	12:30-1:00	1:00-1:30
Second Grade Howley, Jaeger, Kardohely, Slinka, Smerker	5	1:00-1:30	1:30-2:00
Third Grade McLaughlin, VanZant, Foreman, Nieves, Anderson	5	1:30-2:00	2:00-2:30

MEDICATIONS

All medication, whether prescription or over-the-counter, must be kept in the health office. Medication must be sent in the original labeled container and must be accompanied by a Medication Dispensing Form signed by both the physician (or dentist) and the parent.

With parent permission indicated in the Parent Portal Emergency Information Form, updated each year, acetaminophen and ibuprofen may be administered according to manufacturer's suggested dosage. Your child should not come to school on narcotic medication for pain management as these medications may cause dizziness, light-headedness and sedation which make it difficult for your child to function safely and effectively in school.

Administration of specific nonprescription medications is available to all students under the guidelines of the district's Medical Director. These medications include cough drops, throat spray, antacid tablets, and Neosporin ointment.

All controlled medications must be hand-delivered to the school nurse or the principal's designee by a parent or guardian at which time it will be counted and signed for.

Find more information at: <http://www.cbsd.org/Page/900#sthash.ot7luRkV.dpuf>

OUR MISSION

Central Bucks School District

The Central Bucks Schools will provide all students with the academic and problem-solving skills essential for personal development, responsible citizenship, and life-long learning.

Bridge Valley Elementary School

The Bridge Valley community will promote a culture of academic excellence and personal growth through citizenship, respect, responsibility, and collaboration.

MTSS

NEW MTSS or *Muti Tiered System of Supports*, is a framework that puts the focus on EVERY child. MTSS is **not** special education. The structure of the MTSS framework allows us to assess the health of our core instruction and identify the correct interventions, remediation or enrichment, for our students, if and when they are needed. Through MTSS we will better understand our students Reading and Math skills by,

- Assessing early, using a reading and math assessment & classroom-based measures
- Intervening quickly, with evidence-based strategies and resources
- Monitoring student progress regularly

MTSS and our tiered interventions allow for the fluid delivery of instruction, providing support when needed and greater independence when students are ready.

This is a school wide framework. Grade level teams work with administration and specialist to support students and deliver appropriate and meaningful instruction, interventions, and enrichments. Our MTSS school team meets regularly and consists of the building principal, school psychologist, school counselors, reading specialists, speech therapists, classroom teachers, special education teacher, and PEN teacher. This team meets regularly to discuss grade level and student specific progress as well as new ways to support students and staff.

NEWS & NOTES

Bridge Valley's mid-month publication that highlights announcements and reminders.

ORCHESTRA STRINGS

Eligible to students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade - new students who already play may join at any time.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Established report card conference dates are set district wide. Parents are encouraged to request a meeting with school staff members whenever they have a concern about a student's progress. Parents can arrange a conference with a particular teacher by calling or e-mailing the teacher directly.

NEW Conference Dates for the 2024-2025 School Year:

- Fall Conferences: Kindergarten 11/21, 11/22, 11/25 & 11/26
First – Sixth Grade 11/25 & 11/26
- March Conferences: Kindergarten 3/25, 3/26, 3/27 & 3/28
First – Sixth Grade 3/27 & 3/28

PARENT PORTAL



NEW Parent Portal Information

The Central Bucks School district uses Infinite Campus as its student information system. The **Parent Portal** allows parents/guardians to view schedules, attendance, immunizations, and assessment information. Parents can also update demographic information for their family.

[Review Parent Portal Access/User Expectations Agreement](#)

PARTIES

There are three parties during the school year. They are Halloween, Winter Holidays, and End-of-the-Year. The Classroom Coordinators coordinate these parties with the classroom teacher.

PEN

Pupil Enrichment (PEN) *Central Bucks School District's Enrichment Program* - The gifted program. Contact Miss Melberger (K-2) or Mrs. Beth Applegate (3-6), our Student Support Counselors, for further information.

PHOTO/VIDEO DISCLAIMER

Bridge Valley may take photos and videos of students for district and school publications, the website, community displays, the district television station CBTv and the school's broadcasting studio segments, which may or may not use the students' names.

If you do not wish to have the photograph, video, or name of your child used in this way, please update the Parent Portal accordingly.

PSSA

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Standardized testing for 3rd through 6th grades for English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments take place each Spring. In addition, students in 4th grade participate in a science PSSA assessment.

READING OLYMPICS

Established by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to inspire children to become life-long readers. Schools in the county all read the same list of books and meet in late April to answer questions about those books. Bridge Valley's teams are organized in January but reading of those books can begin as soon as the list is published. Reading Olympics are open to 5th and 6th grade students. The list of books is published during the summer of each year. It is available online at the Central Bucks School District's website. Contact our librarian, Mrs. Hauck, if you have any questions.

RECESS

Extra time is scheduled during lunch so that all children can have a recess period. The school believes that this time out-of-doors and away from the classroom atmosphere promotes learning. The school district's policy requires each child, when weather permits, to attend lunch recess, unless excused by a doctor. Your child should be dressed appropriately.

When indoor recess is necessary, the classroom teacher establishes appropriate plans. Cell phones and gum chewing are not allowed during recess. Skateboards, in-line skates, and motor-operated vehicles are also prohibited. Recess equipment is provided and should NOT be brought from home to school. The Bridge Valley Staff provides appropriate supervision during recess.

RED RIBBON WEEK

An Anti-Drug program coordinated with the Student Support Office.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Pupil progress is reported three times per year (see *trimester* for more information).

There may be questions that arise concerning your child's progress other than at regularly scheduled conferences. You are invited and encouraged to contact the teacher and make arrangements for a conference.

REVERSE INCLUSION

Available to K- 6th graders. Students are selected to spend time in our Autistic Support Classes – supporting children with developmental delays and/or neurological disabilities. Students go to the Autistic Support Class for a 10-15 minute period to have snack, play a structured game, engage in an art activity, or participate in a classroom meeting with children having autism under the supervision of an educational assistant, the Student Support Counselor, and/or the classroom teacher. This activity provides an opportunity for your child to build friendships with children who may be different in the ways they communicate and learn but are similar in many more ways. We hope to restart this program in the winter and spring as the Health and Safety plan allows.

SAFETY PATROL

The Safety Patrol is comprised of 6th graders who assist in providing a safe environment for children during arrival and dismissal. Students who would like to serve as a BVE Safety Patrol member must complete and submit an application at the beginning of the school year. A student selected for the Safety Patrol must sign a Contract to honor their responsibilities. *Students must be responsible and willing to be a role model for the school.*

SCHOOL HOURS / STUDENT ARRIVAL TIME

- Students' Day.....8:35AM to 3:15PM
- Kindergarten AM Session..... 8:35AM to 11:10AM
- Kindergarten PM Session.....12:40AM to 3:15PM

Pupils will be admitted into the school building at 8:15 a.m. Since adequate supervision is **NOT PROVIDED** prior to 8:15 a.m., we urge you to plan for your child's home departure so that he/she will **NOT ARRIVE BEFORE** this time. In the interest of your child's safety, it is essential that you control his/her arrival time.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures are taken once a year for the student's cumulative record. Parents are not required to purchase picture packages made available by the school photographer but may do so if they wish. Advance notice is sent home. Picture retakes are available for those absent the day of picture taking. Retakes for other reasons may be arranged with the school photographer.

- 2024-2025 Picture Day is September 25th

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The needs of exceptional students are provided for through a number of in-building and regional special education programs. Included are Central Bucks programs for intellectually gifted students, students with learning disabilities, students with autism and students with other various learning needs. Services are also available for students with visual, auditory, physical, and speech impairments.

STUDENT COUNCIL

A group of students, elected by their peers, that represents the student body at Bridge Valley. These students meet with the administration, teacher representatives and selected classroom representatives to discuss topics of interest. Typically, the student council creates a mission for their work for the year to have an impact on the school building. The student council is led by four elected sixth grade leader

STUDENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

NEW Please be certain to review your contact/emergency information in the Parent Portal section of Infinite Campus for accuracy. Any changes in this information should be updated in the Parent Portal.

Did you complete your annual student information update?

Updating your emergency form ensures that we can contact you, and that you receive critical email and other communication from CBSD and your school!

Log on to the parent portal at www.cbsd.org/parentportal and update yours today!

From the menu select "more" then "Annual Student Information Update"

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT LORI REBSTOCK
lrebstock@cbsd.org or 267-893-5714

The deadline is September 30th

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

The appropriate school personnel should know custody arrangements. Should court dictated custody arrangements apply to your child, a copy of the current court order must be filed with your child's records. The school will endeavor to abide by court directives in its files. Verbal statements of custody will not be enforced.

STUDENTS' RECORDS - ACCESS

As a parent, you have the right to inspect, review, copy, and request correction of your child's school records. All requests for access to your child's education records are to be in writing and must include the following: Requester's name, correct address, and the reason for requesting access to the information.

Please note: Each parent will have access to the child's records unless the school district has received a copy of a court order, or similar legal document, which limits the access. This policy will prevail even if only one parent has custody of the child.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council is a group comprised of one representative from each school in the Central Bucks School District. It serves as a communication conduit between Dr. Yanni, CBSD Superintendent, and the individual schools. The representative and an alternate are determined by the principal of each respective school to attend monthly meetings and report back to the school through HSA.

TARDINESS

Promptness to school is very important for two main reasons:

1. A healthy pattern is formed.
2. Students arriving late to class, often miss assignments and announcements

If a student is tardy, an adult must bring the student to the office and the student will be issued a "pass" to enter the classroom. Students are marked "late" if they report to school after 8:35 a.m. **Lateness's can accumulate to constitute an illegal/unlawful absence.** (330 minutes of cumulative lateness will constitute an illegal absence). Please also see "**Absence.**"

TELEPHONES

Office and classroom phones are available for student use when needed. Messages and deliveries from home should be left in the office. The nurse will call a parent/guardian if your child is ill and needs to be picked up. Students are not permitted to make calls from cell phones during the instructional day. All cell phones must remain in the backpack, 8:15-3:15

Each teacher has a direct dialed telephone number with voice mail extension. Incoming calls to classrooms are automatically routed to voicemail between the hours of 8:35 and 3:30 PM. If there is an emergency please call the office 267-893-3700.

TEXTBOOKS

The school furnishes books and other materials to all students. At times a child may need to bring a textbook home. Reasonable depreciation is expected as a result of daily use. Unreasonable damage to textbooks or district materials will result in a fine. Lost textbooks must be paid for and replaced immediately. The fines for these must be paid to the office at the time of damage or loss. Most books and materials will be online or only used in school.

TRAILBLAZERS

We are Trailblazers, our school mascot's name is "Blazer," the Trailblazing dog.



TRAILBLAZER TRIBUNE

Monthly newsletter published by the principal, Mr. Pedersen and assistant principal, Ms. Deibert and sent home electronically via parent portal e-messenger, typically on the last school day of each month. Please take the time to read this newsletter each month.

TRANSPORTATION

Riding the bus is a privilege. Disruptive, defiant behavior will **not** be tolerated. Unacceptable behavior may result in the temporary suspension of bus privileges. The bus driver will report any infraction of rules to the principals. Parents will be notified in writing of such reports.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Parents must call 267-893-3700 prior to 3pm to make any changes in your child's normal transportation home. Do not call / send an e-mail to the teacher as he / she may be absent or unable to access prior to dismissal. Students may NOT ride a bus home with a friend. All changes must go through the office and are only approved with cause.

TRIMESTER

Trimesters divide the instructional year into three grading periods of approximately sixty school days per making period. You can find more information on the Central Bucks website under Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – Elementary Report Cards.

Start of Trimester	End of Trimester
September 3, 2024	December 4, 2024
December 5, 2024	March 14, 2025
March 15, 2025	June 13, 2025

VALUABLES

NEW NO valuables should be brought to school, we cannot guarantee they will not be misplaced or stolen. We do not replace lost or stolen items. Toys must not be brought to school. The only exception is for special "ShowN' Tell" activities. Toys and other distractions (trading cards etc.) may be taken by the teacher and returned at the end of the day.

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

For the protection of your children, it is mandatory that **EVERY** visitor enter the office to check in and report their business. In addition, all visitors will need to present their drivers licenses prior to entering the main hallway. **No parent is permitted to enter the school and walk the halls or go to a classroom without permission and a visitor pass from the office.** If you are bringing a lunch, textbook, sweater, etc., place the item in the grade level bin located in the atrium. You do not need to sign in at the front desk. The bins are checked regularly, and all items will be delivered to the students. On no occasion should a parent proceed to the classroom on his/her own. With your compliance, we will have DIRECT control over any adults seen in our building and will be able to better ensure the safety of your child.

Volunteers working directly with children are required to have clearances in order to volunteer in our schools. ***Please visit the CBSD website for information on obtaining your clearances. Once the clearances have been submitted, the information will be updated in our system.***

WEBSITE

The school website [Bridge Valley ES / Homepage \(cbsd.org\)](http://cbsd.org) is an excellent source of information. Please check the site regularly and often for the following:

- Announcements
- Calendar of events
- Home & School Information
- And more...

