



August, 2023

Dear Parents & Families,

Welcome back to Bridge Valley Elementary School! I would like to introduce myself as your child's teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Since I will be spending a great deal of time getting to know you and your child, I thought it would be important for you to have some background information about me. In 2005, I earned my Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Penn State University. Following graduation, I worked as a TSS and provided 1:1 behavioral support to children with autism in school, community, and home settings. I then went on to receive a Master's degree in Special Education from Arcadia University in May of 2010. While attending graduate school, I worked as a Case Manager at Lenape Valley Foundation where I located, coordinated, and monitored services for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in home and community settings. I also provided short-term respite care to families who had children with autism through Child & Family Focus. This will be my fourteenth-year teaching Autistic Support at Bridge Valley.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends. My husband and I have two little girls (Mackenzie, 7 and Avery, 3). We enjoyed summer days filled with trips to the pool, visiting playgrounds, the zoo, and some family time at the beach!

I am thrilled to be working with your child during the 2023-2024 school year! The first day of school for students is Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Bridge Valley will be holding an Open House on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 2:30-3:30 PM. This visit will provide your child with the opportunity to meet their teacher and see their new classroom. Please feel free to stop in anytime during that time slot. It would be greatly appreciated if supplies and/or classroom items be dropped off during this time. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns that you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me at [saernst@cbsd.org](mailto:saernst@cbsd.org). I look forward to seeing you and your child in late August and am confident that we are going to have a productive and exciting year together.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ernst, M.Ed