



Frank M. Silvia Elementary School
1899 Meridian Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
(508) 675-9811

Mr. Patrick Lenz, Principal
Mrs. Melissa Homol, Vice Principal

Ms. Erin Finn, Vice Principal
Ms. Jennifer Grafton, Dean of Teaching and Learning

August 14, 2019

Dear Silvia Families,

I hope your summer has been enjoyable, filled with special moments together with family. We are looking forward to the beginning of school and filling our hallways with students. There is a sense of excitement as we prepare to open our schools. Our custodians, secretaries, support staff, and administration have done wonderful work preparing Silvia for the return of our students and teachers. All of our summer work has been focused on supporting the classroom. Our dedicated faculty and staff have been preparing their classrooms, refining lessons and materials, and are anticipating a whole new group of students to guide and support.

As I reflect upon the purpose of public schools, it is clear that public schools have the responsibility of educating and supporting all children. It is the fundamental role of public schools in collaboration with families to provide children with the skills necessary to become contributing members of society. In particular, our Silvia is highly committed to welcoming all students and families into our community. At Silvia and in Fall River, we strongly believe in creating a climate of equity and inclusion where all children can feel safe, take risks, learn, grow, and support one another. We have been and will continue to be committed to modeling a respectful and supportive environment of dialogue and behavior in all interactions with our students and families.

I am grateful for the highly skilled team of administrators, school adjustment counselors and other staff who are poised and ready to assist your child as they navigate this next year of their education. I encourage you to reach out to us at any time for information, guidance or support.

A major focus last school year was integrating social and emotional learning into our academic programming. We developed our *Silvia School Core Beliefs* (see below) and will continue to look to these beliefs to guide all we do when it comes to the education of our students. This year, we will continue to elevate our Silvia Tiered Systems of Support (STSS). This system not only provides a strong core academic and social and emotional learning program, but also gives small groups and individual students targeted support as needed. As the year progresses, we will be communicating with you more as it relates to STSS. In addition, I will be holding two sessions for families that will be dedicated to conversations around STSS (see dates below).

SILVIA STARS

Stay safe * Treat others with kindness * Always do your best * Respect yourself, others, and the school

Silvia School’s Core Beliefs are:

- ❑ We believe all students are entitled to a respectful, caring, and safe learning environment where they are encouraged to take risks in order to grow academically, emotionally and socially.
- ❑ We believe that recognizing and honoring diversity strengthens our ability to teach the whole child and build a sense of community.
- ❑ We believe all students will develop the coping skills necessary to build self reliance, perseverance, and self awareness in order to become intrinsically motivated independent thinkers in a collaborative environment.
- ❑ We believe mastery learning is best achieved when students have opportunities to apply skills in

The following are important dates to be aware for the beginning of the school year:

Wednesday, August 14th	- 5:00 - 6:00 Popsicle Social for all families with students going into grades 1 - 5. Class rosters will also be shared.
Tuesday, August 27th	- <i>Meet the Teacher</i> from 2:30 - 3:30 (K students will meet the entire kindergarten team as kindergarten placement will not be complete until after screenings)
Wednesday, August 28	- Students grades 1 - 5 first day of school
August 28th, 29th, 30th and September 3rd	- Kindergarten Screenings (separate letter will be sent to all K families)
Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd	- NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 3rd	- Pre-kindergarten first day of school
Friday, September 6th	- Kindergarten first day of school
Wednesday, September 18th	- Silvia Open House from 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Thursday, September 19th and Thursday, October 3rd	- “Coffee with the Principal” from 8:00 to 8:45 am in the Community Room - Focus on Silvia Tiered Systems of Support for Social/Emotional Learning

Dismissal Locations:

For the 2019 - 2020 school year, the following will serve as Silvia’s pick-up locations at dismissal time:

- Kindergarten, Grade 1 and siblings of K/1st graders will be dismissed out out of the cafeteria
- Grade 2 and Grade 3 will be dismissed out of the right front doors
- Grade 4 and Grade 5 will be dismissed out of the main entrance/left front doors

A friendly reminder that we must dismiss buses first and to please not crowd the main entrance so we can do this as quickly as possible.

SILVIA STARs

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We are Silvia STARS:

At Silvia and as part of our *Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports* (PBIS) program we follow and reinforce our STAR acronym. We ask that families also reinforce our positive behavior focus at home. When students hear a consistent message from school and at home they know that we are all on the same page and working together in their best interest.

S	Stay safe
T	Treat others with kindness
A	Always do your best
R	Respect yourself, others, and our school

Home-School Connections:

We will continue to use as much digital communication as possible. Please find our website [here](#). In addition, you can follow Silvia School on TWITTER @frps_Silvia.

Open Door Policy:

At Silvia we are committed to working together with families in the best interest of all students. We believe that families and the Silvia staff are equal partners in the education of our students. We also understand the importance of coming to the school directly with any questions and/or concerns that you may have regarding your own child. Please know that I am committed to having an open door policy and welcome any and all of your feedback, questions, and/or concerns.

Wishing you the very best as you enjoy the last days of summer.

Sincerely,



Patrick Lenz
Principal: Silvia Elementary School

SILVIA STARS

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