



Frank M. Silvia Elementary School  
2018-2019  
Parent Handbook



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**SILVIA STARS**

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

# WELCOME

September 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of Frank M. Silvia Elementary School and Fall River Public Schools, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year and to introduce you to our ***SILVIA SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK***.

Fall River Public Schools is committed to the concept that a child's education is the product of the school **and** home. We believe that a strong partnership between school and your family will result in success for your child. You can help with this partnership in many ways. By regularly showing interest in your child's schoolwork, asking questions, and giving praise for accomplishments, you can reinforce what the school is trying to accomplish. Similarly, stressing the need for regular attendance conveys to your child the importance of school. Visiting school and attending as many school activities as possible also send a message to your child that education has a high priority in your family.

For our part, we need to keep you informed on a regular basis about school activities and your child's progress. We also need to provide you with as much information about the school as possible. To that end, the ***SILVIA SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK*** has been developed and will also be posted on the Silvia School webpage.

Please feel free to call the school for clarification of any rule, regulation, or policy. Also, please do not hesitate to contact me personally at 508-675-9811 or via e-mail at [plenz@fallriverschools.org](mailto:plenz@fallriverschools.org), if you have concerns or questions regarding school matters.

Wishing you and your child a successful school year.

Sincerely,



Patrick Lenz  
Principal, Silvia School

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**Fall River Public Schools  
2018-2019 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

<i>Professional Development/Orientation Day:</i> <i>(No school for students)</i>	<b>Tuesday, August 28, 2018</b>
<i>Opening Day of School:</i>	<b>Wednesday, August 29, 2018</b> <i>(PreK begins 9/4/18; Kindergarten begins 9/7/18)</i>
<i>No school</i>	<b>Friday, August 31, 2018</b>
<i>Labor Day:</i>	<b>September 3, 2018</b>
<b>Early Release Day (for students):</b> <b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Monday, October 1, 2018</b>
<i>Columbus Day:</i>	<b>Monday, October 8, 2018</b>
<b>Professional Development Day:</b> <i>(No school for students)</i>	<b>Tuesday, November 6, 2018</b>
<i>Veterans Day:</i>	<b>Monday, November 12, 2018</b>
<i>Early Release Day (for staff &amp; students):</i>	<b>Wednesday, November 21, 2018</b>
<i>Thanksgiving Recess:</i>	<b>Thursday, November 22, 2018 and Friday, November 23, 2018</b>
<b>Early Release Day (for students):</b> <b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Monday, December 3, 2018</b>
<i>Early Release Day (for staff &amp; students):</i>	<b>Friday, December 21, 2018</b>
<i>Christmas-New Year Recess:</i>	<b>December 24, 2018 through January 1, 2019</b> <i>(Recess begins at the early release of school on Friday, December 21, 2018 / school resumes on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.)</i>
<i>Martin Luther King Jr. 's Birthday Observance:</i>	<b>Monday, January 21, 2019</b>
<b>Professional Development Day:</b> <i>(No school for students)</i>	<b>Friday, February 1, 2019</b>
<i>Winter Recess:</i>	<b>February 18, 2019 through February 22, 2019</b> <i>(Recess begins at the close of school on Friday, February 15, 2019 / school resumes on Monday, February 25, 2019.)</i>
<b>Early Release Day (for students):</b> <b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Monday, March 11, 2019</b>
<b>Early Release Day (for students):</b> <b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Monday, April 1, 2019</b>
<i>Spring Recess:</i>	<b>April 15, 2019, through April 19, 2019</b> <i>(Recess begins at the close of school on Friday, April 12, 2019 / school resumes on Monday, April 22, 2019.)</i>
<i>Good Friday:</i>	<b>Friday, April 19, 2019</b> *no school in session / district offices will be closed
<i>Memorial Day:</i>	<b>Monday, May 27, 2019</b>
<i>Last Day for Durfee High School Seniors:</i>	<b>Friday, May 31, 2019</b>
<i>Durfee High School Graduation:</i>	<b>Friday, June 7, 2019</b>
<i>Closing Day of School:</i>	<b>Thursday, June 13, 2019</b> <i>(NOTE: The last two days of school are half-days for students)</i>
<i>Inclement Weather Date:</i>	<b>Thursday, June 20, 2019</b>
<i>The 2018-2019 Instructional School Year is scheduled to end on Thursday, June 13, 2019. If a school day is cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or other emergencies, the day or days will be added to the closing date of the school year. If five instructional school days are cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or other emergencies, schools will close on Thursday, June 20, 2019. All personnel must be prepared for a Thursday, June 20th closing. NOTE: In the event that any of the Professional Development Days are cancelled because of inclement weather or other emergencies, they will be made up at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year.</i>	
<b>End of Trimesters:</b> <i>(Elementary)</i>	<b>I Trimester</b> (61 days): Friday, November 30 <b>II Trimester</b> (61 days): Friday, March 15 <b>III Trimester</b> (58 days): Closing date/inclement weather date

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# Frank M. Silvia Elementary School

## Vision Statement

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Students at the Frank M. Silvia School will receive a standard-based curriculum delivered through a variety of best practices. These practices provide our students with pathways towards academic and social success in middle school and beyond.

To achieve these goals, our school will make certain that:

- All students meet or exceed state standards in all subject areas.
- All students receive highly qualified focused instruction targeted to their learning needs.
- Students' progress is monitored by formative and summative assessments from the school, district and state.
- All stakeholders promote a culture in which they believe in students' capacity to succeed through positive reinforcement for effort, achievement and behavior.

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# Social/Emotional Learning (SEL)

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Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) fosters a safe and positive learning environment for all students through teaching or enhancing the social/emotional skills that they will need to be successful in school. These skills students learn are transferable, meaning they will also foster success at home and in the community, and establish the foundation on which continued successes are built throughout their lives.

Social and emotional learning is the process of acquiring important social and emotional skills sets in a variety of areas as illustrated in the diagram at right. These skill sets include:

**Self-Awareness** - The ability to accurately recognize one’s own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior. The ability to accurately assess one’s strengths and limitations, with a sense of confidence, optimism, and a “growth mindset.” Self-awareness skills include identifying emotions, accurate self-perception, competence, and self-confidence.

**Self Management** - The ability to successfully regulate one’s emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations. Self management skills include impulse control, stress management, self-discipline and motivation, goal setting and organizational skills.

**Responsible Decision Making** - The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the well-being of oneself and others. Responsible decision making skills include identifying and solving problems, analyzing, evaluating, and reflecting.

**Relationship Skills** - The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. The ability to communicate clearly, listen well, cooperate with others, resist inappropriate social pressure, conflict resolution, and seek help when needed. Relationship skills include communication, social engagement, relationship building, and teamwork.

**Social Awareness** - The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Social awareness skills include perspective taking, empathy, and appreciation and respect for others.



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It is easy to see how deficits in these social emotional skill sets, for instance teamwork, behavior management, or problem solving, can impact a student's academic success. Silvia Elementary recognizes that academic and social emotional learning are equally important.

At Silvia Elementary, Social and Emotional Learning is fostered in many ways. These include the school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, classroom lessons, social skills groups, the Silvia Star Students' Weekly Character Traits, a Growth Mindset philosophy, and the *Open Circle* resource.

### **Parent Need to Knows!**

#### **Start Times**

7:10 - 7:25 - Arrival (Students arriving after 7:35 a.m. will be marked tardy)

Traffic is problematic in the morning, please plan accordingly. We encourage students who live in Silvia School district, and qualify for transportation, to take their assigned bus to and from school, if possible. If your child needs to arrive earlier, morning daycare is available starting at 6:30 a.m.. The cost of morning daycare is \$2 per day per student. Please inquire in the main office for more information.

#### **End Times**

3:30 p.m. - Bus students are loaded (2:30 p.m. on Mondays)

3:35 p.m. - Parent patrol students are dismissed (2:35 p.m. on Mondays)

Students should be picked up promptly from parent patrol or bus stop. Students not picked up from parent patrol will be sent to Silvia daycare and a fee will be charged. If after school daycare is needed, please inquire in the main office.

#### **Parking**

We understand the difficulties with parking during dismissal. Student safety is our priority. Please do not park in fire lanes, move saw horses or double park. If the parking lot is full, please park on Meridian St.

#### **Early Dismissal**

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Whenever possible, please schedule appointments outside of the school day. If you need to dismiss your child during the day, we require 24 hours written notice.

The end of the day is a very busy time at school. For this reason and the safety of our students, all early dismissals must be done by 3:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m. on Mondays).

### **Attendance**

Your child's attendance is one of the most important elements of their learning. Please make every effort to ensure your child is present and on-time everyday. Scheduling of vacations during school time is discouraged. Teachers are not required to provide any make-up work for vacation time scheduled while school is in session.

### **Uniform Policy**

All students are expected to wear the required uniform during school hours.

Pants/skirts/shorts are to be a chino material and can be navy, black or khaki in color. Skirts and shorts should be longer than fingertip length. Tights or leggings under skirts also need to follow the uniform policy.

Shirts: The iron logo should be present on all shirts. They are available for \$.50 in the main office. Shirts can be royal blue, kelly green, or white. Sweaters/sweatshirts also need to be proper color.

New Silvia School Gear: SILVIA hooded sweatshirts (Youth & Adult S-XXL) and SILVIA sweatpants (Youth & Adult S-XL) are available for purchase. These may be worn as spirit wear. Please see the office for an order form.

Please label students' sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts with your child's name to prevent lost or misplaced items.

### **Breakfast**

All students are provided with free breakfast in the classroom. It is served at 7:30. Students need to be punctual to take advantage of this wonderful program.

### **Snacks**

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All students are given a snack time during the school day. Due to allergies, please do not provide any snacks that contain nuts. We encourage a healthy choice for the snack time break.

### **Lunch Money**

To add money to your child's lunch account you can send the money to school (in an envelope with the child's full name on it), or add to the account online at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) . You will need your child's identification number, which is available from the office staff.

Elementary Lunch: \$1.70

Reduced Priced Lunch: .40

Elementary Milk: .25

### **School Celebrations**

The school district policy on food items states:

*All food items for classroom or school celebrations shall be arranged through the district's food service department.*

Please do not send in food items such as cupcakes or cookies. If you would like to order an item you may do so through:

<https://schools.whitsons.com/ma/fall-river-public-schools?page=menu>

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Frank M. Silvia School  
School-Wide Behavioral Expectations  
**Overview of the Positive Behavior Support Program**

A Guide for Teaching School-Wide Behavioral Expectations

**School-Wide Positive Behavior Support is a set of strategies and systems to increase the capacity of schools to (a) reduce school disruption, and (b) educate all students including those with problem behaviors**

- Clearly defined outcomes
- Research-validated practices
- Supportive administrative systems
- Use of information for problem solving

**Features of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support**

- Establish regular, predictable, positive learning & teaching environments.
- Train adults & peers to serve as positive models.
- Teach and model behavioral expectations
- Create systems for providing regular positive feedback.
  - Acknowledge students when they are “doing the right thing”.
- Improve social competence.
- Develop environments that support academic success.

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## Positive Behavior System

Our school has implemented a positive behavior system. This system teaches our students that positive behavior and character traits are rewarded. We find that focusing our attention on the positive creates an environment that prevents many negative behaviors.

All students wear a name tag with a grid on the back. Students can earn stars on their tag for demonstrating “STAR behavior”. These star behaviors have been defined for students throughout the school building.

Each week we award the STAR Student Award to one student in each classroom. This student has demonstrated a specific trait, such as kindness to friends. Then we recognize all those students at an end of each at an assembly for all students.

We have had much success with this program and will continue to implement. A STAR behavior handbook will be provided to all our families.

**Stay safe**

**Treat others with kindness**

**Always do your best**

**Respect ourselves, others and our school**

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## Weekly Character Traits



Every week a different character trait is introduced to students through morning announcements and reinforced throughout the school week. Students are recognized for demonstrating the character trait and names of “*Weekly Star Students*” are displayed outside classrooms. They are also recognized with a special snack and video montage at a school-wide assembly at the end of every trimester.

Here is a list of each week’s character trait for this school year.

Sept 3	Greeting others	Jan 21	Being flexible
Sept 10	Accepting others/showing tolerance	Jan 28	Having good transitions
Sept 17	Being punctual and prepared for class	Feb 4	Showing respect
Sept 24	Following instructions	Feb 11	Working as a team
Oct 1	Active listener	Feb 25	Joining in a conversation
Oct 8	Appropriately gaining teacher’s attention	March 4	Having a positive attitude/outlook
Oct 15	Giving and receiving compliments	March 11	Contributing to discussion
Oct 22	Being a good friend	March 18	Appropriately dealing with frustration
Oct 29	Being kind to others	March 25	Appropriate behavior in the hallways
Nov 5	Appropriately managing feelings	April 1	Completing homework
Nov 12	Resisting negative peer pressure	April 8	Interrupting appropriately
Nov 19	Helping others	April 22	Working to your full potential
Nov 26	Persevering through difficult tasks	April 29	Using an appropriate tone of voice
Dec 3	Having appropriate boundaries	May 6	Appropriately using calm down strategies
Dec 10	Disagreeing appropriately	May 13	Being a positive leader
Dec 17	Self-management in the cafeteria	May 20	Following routine
Dec 31	Staying on task	May 27	Accepting a loss graciously
Jan 7	Being an effective problem solver	June 3	Being a good sport
Jan 14	Expressing empathy/understanding others		

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