



ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Philip Simotas
President Board of Education

Maureen McCann
Superintendent/Principal

August 29, 2024

Dear Alpine Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you all enjoyed the summer recess. As we prepare to embark on another exciting school year, I wanted to take a moment to extend a warm welcome and share some important information about the 2024-2025 school year.

New Beginnings and Opportunities

The start of a new school year is always a time of anticipation and enthusiasm. This year, we are thrilled to introduce several new staff members, initiatives, and enhancements aimed at enriching our Alpine students' educational experience. From updated curriculum frameworks to exciting extracurricular opportunities, our goal is to foster a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

1. New Staff - I would like to welcome Mrs. Nuria Gesteira Moreda as our new Spanish teacher. Mrs. Gesteira is a native speaker that comes from Spain. She and her family came to settle in Tenafly in 2019. Mrs. Gesteira was a Civil Engineer and began her educational training in language education in Spain in 2016 and completed her requirements for teaching here in the US. Another welcome goes to our own Mrs. Maida Poliandro who will now be our art teacher. Mrs. Poliandro comes to us with varied experience working with students of all needs. Who knew her background was so heavily rooted in Art Studies.
2. Curriculum Updates- We have made several updates to our curriculum to ensure that it remains relevant, engaging, and up to the new NJSLS. Mrs. Anne Serekian has made a strong focus on the updates to our NJSLS 2023 Mathematics and English Language Arts curriculum, designed to better prepare our students for future academic and personal success. She has also prepared enhancements for our current Science curriculum.

We are so excited to announce that our SMART Lab has been installed and our teachers trained. We will be incorporating all these new technology tools and resources into our STEAM and Maker Space Programs. This lab will enhance interactive learning and provide students with new ways to explore and demonstrate their understanding of technology and its uses for today's world.

3. Extracurricular Programs- This year, we are excited to offer a broader range of extracurricular activities, including the return of Math Counts for MS students, and with the AHSA after school enrichment programs like Pickleball and Mad Science. I am thrilled to announce that therapy dogs will be visiting with our students in their classrooms on Fridays this year! We look forward to welcoming Baloo and Dakota as new members of the Alpine School community. Stay tuned for more information from Mrs. Grinkin.



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4. **Community Engagement**- We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is crucial to student success. On the first day of school students will be assembling in the gym and when introductions are over parents are invited to head down to the auditorium for a welcoming meeting with the Alpine Home and School Association at 8:45. A chance to meet your new officers and get acquainted with some important offerings for the new year.

Attached to the email blast you will find a copy of our Drop Off and Pickup procedures and a letter from Chief Kent of the Alpine Police Department. The major change is that drop off begins and 8:15 to 8:25 and everyone can enter directly at that time. There will be no supervision till 8:15.

Maureen McCann

Superintendent/Principal

Here is a list of some upcoming school events and information that will help you prepare for the opening of school:

- **First Day of School- September 3rd – 8:25- 12:40. Opening Assembly in the gym at 8:25. AHSA meeting following assembly in the Auditorium.**
- **12:40 dismissal September 3-6, 2024**
- **School lunch begins September 09, 2024. Details to follow.**
- **5th Grade Family Picnic- Friday September 20, 2024. Rain date: September 27, 2024**
- **Back to School Night Elementary and Middle School, Thursday, September 19th.Details to follow.**
- **AHSA meeting 8:45, September 27, 2024**
- **Oct. 8, 2024 -Picture Day**