

## School Calendar

### This Week

#### Friday, May 3

*Family and Friends Day*

EC Picnic 11:30 am

Grades Assembly 1:15 pm

#### Saturday, May 4

Open House 9:45 am

Mayfaire 11:00 am-3:00 pm

### Looking Ahead

#### Monday, May 6

*No School – Faculty In-service*

#### Wednesday, May 8

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Play 6:30 pm

#### Monday, May 13

*6<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Crystal Cave*

#### Wednesday, May 15

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Evening 6:30 pm

#### Thursday, May 16

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade Pentathlon – Kimberton WS*

#### Saturday, May 18

*Parent Stage*

#### Wednesday, May 22

*Community Biography Workshop*

### How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org

lc@rivervalleyschool.org

bot@rivervalleyschool.org

pc@rivervalleyschool.org

### Learning Virtue, Living Virtue.

Paul Ritchie examines Altruism in his Learning Virtue, Living Virtue column inside today's Current.

### OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, May 4<sup>th</sup>

#### We need your help!

At 9:45 am this Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, (before Mayfaire) RVWS is holding an Open House. Please invite your friends and family who might like to learn more about our school to attend. If you have a young child and would like to learn more about the grade school program – please plan to attend. The morning will segue perfectly into Mayfaire for ongoing family fun. Faculty and/or staff will continue to be present at the Information booth near ticketing, so questions and conversations can happen throughout the day.

RSVP to [info@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:info@rivervalleyschool.org).

- Share the event on social media
- Distribute flyers and postcards in your community
- Take a set of yard signs to display
- Invite family and friends

Thank you and see you there!

### Mayfaire is Here – This Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

These are some ways you can help make it a success:

- ❖ Please bring a bundle of flowers (from your garden or a local florist) on Friday or Saturday for garland making. Buckets will be by the front door.
- ❖ Sign-up on the board in the lobby for one set-up or clean-up shift AND one work shift.
- ❖ Share our flyers in your local area (coffee shops, libraries, mommy & me classes, gyms etc.)
- ❖ If you are a baker, please consider helping 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with their fundraising efforts.

#### Pop-up Tent?

The sixth grade needs a 10 x 10 pop up tent for Mayfaire jump rope making activity. Does anyone have one we can borrow for the day? Please email [felicialom@gmail.com](mailto:felicialom@gmail.com).



### Family and Friends Day This Friday

Family and Friends Day is coming up this Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and we look forward to welcoming grandparents, friends and relatives to join in the fun. As your guests arrive, admin folks will be on hand to greet them and guide them to the right spot.

Guests coming to see students in the Moon, Star and Acorn Rooms should meet on the back playground at 11:30 am. Please bring a picnic lunch for your family/guests, including dishes and utensils. Please remember to keep your picnics peanut and tree-nut free to protect our students and staff with severe allergies. Everyone is invited to stay for the grade school assembly, which begins at 1:15 pm and will last 45 minutes to an hour.

Guests of grade school students should plan to arrive about 12:45 so they have time to get settled in their seats in the APR – as you know, seating is limited!

For those who arrive a little bit early, there will be some light refreshments available at the front of the school or in the lobby.

## Save the Date – Parent Stage – Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Weren't those middle schoolers magnificent in Oliver!? That play inspired the younger kinds and parents, too. Mark your calendar and book your babysitter — Parent Stage is May 18.

What's Parent Stage? Parent Stage is our big Party for Parents, the night we get down, get funky, get loose. A variety show of performances by parents, for parents. No kids (get your babysitter now!). And no money! It's a free event, not a fundraiser. Potluck & BYOB.

It's as amazing as you've heard. We welcome rusty performers, seasoned performers, and always-wanted-to-be performers. The bold and the shy. If you dance, act, walk on your hands, or make music, bring your act to Parent Stage. There's even a choir if you'd rather sing in a crowd.

Sign ups close April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please let Chellie Bader (Faye, Grade 6) know if you want to be on the roster. Michelle@smorgasb.org or 617-501-7517. Please contact Kira Willey for Parent Choir questions: kirawilley@rcn.com.

## From Administration



AWSNA invites you to join the Waldorf100 GreenBee Wildlife Web Webinar on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:30 pm ET.

Matthew Shepherd of Xerces Society will present straightforward ways in which we can make our gardens — or neighborhoods or cities — better for bees.

Register here:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UtrR\\_v2ZT2mGsnPiuhXd5A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UtrR_v2ZT2mGsnPiuhXd5A)

### A Taste of Biography & Social Art

"Being able to see the other in a new light is so helpful." Our second community session with Kathleen Bowen will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Experience connection and interest through exercises and conversation. Meeting each other in authentic ways, we awaken connections within and with others. Our lives can change our conscious can expand, we can take a new step — through a doorway into a new space, a new way of being, a new relationship with the other. Isn't it our longing to understand ourselves and others on a deeper level? Isn't it our wish to see the world in a new light? Biography and Social Art work is a door.

Kathleen Bowen has been active in developing biography and social art work for many years. Click here to register: [info@biographysocialart.org](mailto:info@biographysocialart.org)

### Box Tops

We received a check for \$85.60 from Box Tops for Education. Keep those coupons coming and special thanks to Karen Jacobs for being our Box Tops Coordinator.



RVWS and WECAN (Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America) enthusiastically support Screen-Free Week- April 29-May 5, 2019. We know that children need to develop un-mediated relationships with the real world through exploration and creative play before engaging with the virtual world. We are grateful to Campaign for Commercial-Free Childhood for its leadership and for providing so many excellent resources to families and educators and we hope our communities will actively participate again this year! Click here for resources and more information: <https://commercialfreechildhood.org/resources>

## From The Faculty

### What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Drama  
Second Grade – Math  
Third Grade – Social Studies  
Fourth Grade – Man & Animal

Fifth Grade – Ancient Greece  
Sixth Grade – Class Play  
Seventh Grade – Wish, Wonder & Surprise  
Eighth Grade – Chemistry

## Class Fundraisers

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Barn Sale

A barn sale to benefit the fundraising effort of the eighth grade will be held at 135 Riegelsville Road in Milford on May 18 and 19 from 8-5. We will be gratefully accepting donated items beginning Monday April 29 either at the school or directly to the sale location. Items dropped at the school will be collected daily at pick up time. Arrangements can be made to pick up bigger items. Anything salable is a welcome donation. Items not sold will be donated to Worthwhile Thrift in Pipersville at the end of the sale. Please donate items, or plan to attend the sale to help the eighth grade with their final fundraising effort!

## Alumni News

### RVWS Alumni Charles Ryan (Class of 2013) will Travel to the London School of Economics and Political Science from Penn State University.

From Penn State News:

Scholars Plan to Add Perspective to Research at London School of Economics

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Two Penn State Schreyer Honors Scholars and Presidential Leadership Academy members will pursue their globally minded educational goals this fall at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Ezra Gershanok, a sophomore majoring in economics, and Charles Ryan, a sophomore majoring in political science, will attend the university's study abroad program, The General Course, from September through June. They will take a leave of absence from Penn State for that duration but will receive course credit for the classes they take in London and will select those classes based on their respective academic interests from among 300 undergraduate courses offered by the university.

To read more go to: <https://news.psu.edu/story/570319/2019/04/22/academics/scholars-plan-add-perspective-research-london-school-economics?fbclid=IwAR1fOKZuuwjfAAnAm6SaDzDYwMKroxWTaxl-me2htyx9OMNEs6EAJXRMI4>

## From the Community

### Electronics Waste Recycling Event

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
At Springfield Elementary School 1950 Rte. 212,  
Quakertown, PA 18951

All items are free to recycle, except televisions and monitors which will have a \$30 recycling fee (Cash ONLY. LED/LCD screens are exempt.) \*OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS\* Questions? Call 610.346.6700 or visit [www.ewasteexperts.com](http://www.ewasteexperts.com) & [www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org)  
Hosted by the Springfield Township, E.A.C.

### Angora Bunnies Looking for a Home

If you would like to adopt 2 white, male Angora bunnies, contact Miss Molly, 610-349-3536.

### Do you love Game of Thrones?

Join us at The Ship Inn Restaurant and Brewery and AleHorn to benefit the Milford Public Library!

Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM – 11 PM  
Tickets include a three course meal and one short beer. Buy them here at [http://bit.ly/for\\_the\\_books](http://bit.ly/for_the_books).  
There will be a themed meal and Ommegang HBO Game of Thrones licensed kegs.

We will also have trivia games. Winners will receive an AleHorn and it will be filled on the house. To top the night off the Ship will be streaming the series finale of Game of Thrones. Seats are limited!

### **Babysitting Co-op**

Selwin, Megan, and Vernon Briggs are starting a babysitting co-op, for the purpose of swapping childcare. We imagine it would be great if parents could occasionally rely on other parents to take care of each others kids for a few hours for a date night out, perhaps an afternoon coverage for an appointment, or maybe even school carpool rides. If you are interested in joining this potential co-op, the Briggs are hosting a potluck on Saturday, April 27th at 4:00 pm for purposes of bringing people together to discuss how this might work.

Potluck Information:

April 27th, 4:00 pm, 1701 Ringing Rocks Road (at the corner of Bridgeton Hill & Ringing Rocks) Upper Black Eddy, Please bring an appetizer, side dish, dessert, or drink. All kids are of course welcome to join.

Please e-mail Megan at [meganbarnesbriggs@gmail.com](mailto:meganbarnesbriggs@gmail.com) to let us know you are coming. If you can't make the potluck but you are interested in the co-op idea, then you can also just let us know, and we'll keep you in the loop.

### **Employment Opportunity**

Are you ready to provide hands-on care to people who need natural health services? Must have 5 hands and the ability to do 7 things at once. You will be trained in a 100-year old natural therapy that we have been providing in our office for many years.

Medical or health background, including massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga or other therapist, REQUIRED. Salary is determined by experience and will range from \$13.50 to \$17 to start. Flexible, part-time hours (up to 20 hours a week). Background check required. Must be patient-centered, organized, and professional.

### **RiverSoul Yoga**

Spring in to wellness at RiverSoul Yoga located in Milford NJ. Find our weekly schedule at [riversoulyoga.com](http://riversoulyoga.com) or visit us at [www.facebook.com/riversoulyoga](http://www.facebook.com/riversoulyoga). We look forward to seeing you on the mat!

### **Office/Studio Available in Milford**

Beautiful 1st floor office/studio space with high ceilings, abundant natural light & wood floors is available to rent for your business. Opportunity for an office/studio share available for this space as well. Call or message Karen for more information at 908-403-6653.

### **House for Sale**

If you are interested in buying a house in Milford, NJ - 2 min away from our school, Please contact Saharra 973 902 5737.

### **Artyard**

**The Past is Prologue; Vernacular Photography, Pop Photographica and the Road to Selfie Culture April 27-July 28. Queer Icons exhibition in the Project Gallery – May 18 – June 8, Opening Reception with Silky Shoemaker Saturday, May 18, 6-7 pm**

#### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**

Screening of *Paper Moon*, the 1973 comedy drama starring Ryan O'Neal and Tatum O'Neal

#### **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm**

Kinan Abou Afach, A Letter from Syria, an evening of Middle Eastern influenced jazz

#### **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

6-7 pm - Opening of Queer Icons exhibition with Silky shoemaker

7:30 pm – Concert – Pride with Alexis P. Suter

#### **Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am**

Artyard's Third Annual Hatch, 12:30 pm – Bring your own bag picnic lunch in the Artyard tent

1:30-3 pm – Crankie performances

#### **Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 am – 3:30 pm**

Symposium on Vernacular Photography

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am-1 pm**

How I Look at Photographs with W.M. Hunt

**Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**

Screening of *Finding Vivian Maier*, directed by John Maloof and Charlie Siskel followed by a communal, bring your own picnic

Go to: [artyard.org](http://artyard.org) for tickets and more information about all of these events.

ArtYard, 62A Trenton Avenue, Frenchtown, NJ 08825. Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

**St. Luke's UCC Rummage and Bake Sale**

Wednesday, May 1 - Silent Auction, Registration & Bidding - 9 am-3 pm. Auction ends Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Thursday, May 2 - 9 am-8 pm, Friday, May 3 - 10 am-7 pm, Saturday, May 4 - 9 am-4 pm.

Sale will take place at the building located at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 in Ottsville. Lunch Available.

Donated items welcome. Drop off items on the porch at the schoolhouse of St. Luke's UCC Church on Durham Road. No computers, fax machines, printers, TVs, CRT's, car seats, mattresses, encyclopedias, used paint cans, or items needing repair please.

Questions: 215-206-3277/3307 or 610-547-7523.

**Looking for a House to Rent**

Hi friends,

Our family is seeking a rental within a 15 mile radius of River Valley. We need a 4 or 5 bedroom and are looking for a peaceful, simple, retreat we can affectionately call home while the kids are in high school. We prefer some privacy, land, and trees.

Call, text, or email if anyone is aware of a place. Thanks so much everyone! Linda Thompson, cell 908 407 9676. email [thompsonlj1@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonlj1@gmail.com).

**Learning Virtue, Living Virtue  
by Paul Ritchie  
May – Altruism**

"If you want to make a stand, help others make a stand. In seeking humanity, seek both love and altruism to their fullest." --Confucius

The notion of altruism, *the selfless devotion to the good of others*, commences in the English-speaking world in 1848 via the pen of Auguste Comte, the "Father of Positivism." It quickly joined an already contentious conflict characterized by name calling and too much heat, not enough light. Integrity was at a premium.

Literature has long trafficked in the thought that reality can emancipate humankind if only it could be made accessible to them. Today, great issues play out their various cultural battles to shape opinion, progressively more strident. Here are but a few examples:

- Popular literature that masquerades as if it is from the posture of science. In this way, literature positions itself as chaste and rational scientific objectivity.
- Hypotheses offered in the name of science which lack the self-discipline or self-criticism for which science is distinguished.
- Bloviating, chattering classes who advocate for interest groups available to the highest bidder.
- A wide-ranging *faux fusion* of disparately-held positions (e.g., theism and atheism) that fail to explicate the differences among them.

Thus, efforts to systematize belief systems continue to grow, especially in scientific spheres.

*Is this systematization inevitable?*

Not necessarily. Berkeley Philosopher John Searle wrote, "There is no such thing as the scientific world, just 'the world.'"

*(Continued on next page.)*

*But in the scientific perceptions you've outlined, aren't all the tools scientific?*

Not at all. Ralph Waldo Emerson –

- *are you bringing back... (laughter)*

Yes. More soul work. Emerson says, "In silence, in steadiness, in severe abstraction, let him hold by himself; add observation to observation, patient of neglect, patient of reproach, and bide his own time – happy enough if he can satisfy himself that this day he has seen something truly. . .For the instinct is sure, that prompts him to tell his brother what he thinks. He then learns that in going down into the secrets of his own mind he has descended into the secrets of all minds.

*OK. I'll give you credit on working and sharing from the inside out. But what about from the outside in? How about an example of selfless love that comes from the heart?*

I'd offer you Mother Theresa of Calcutta, who said, "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." To her core, she embodies the Confucian command to help others make a stand, particularly the vulnerable who cannot do so for themselves.

*With all the bluster and noise, how can the least powerful even gain a hearing?*

By arguing from a position of objective strength on the issues. This requires the highest level of integrity in forging complete, thorough answers to a number of key issues, identified in William MacAskill's "Doing Good Better":

1. What does this charity do? How many people benefit, and by how much?
2. How cost-effective is each program area? Is this the most effective thing you can do?
3. How robust is the evidence behind each program? Is this area neglected?
4. How well is each program implemented? What would have happened otherwise?
5. Does the charity need additional funds? What are the chances of success, and how good would success be?

Altruistic resource raising, planning and execution bring out the best test of our character. There is an abundance of issues to which we can apply our commitment and tools in the best, truest test for altruism.

From PBS

## **The Importance of Art in Child Development**

By Grace Hwang Lynch

In recent years, school curricula in the United States have shifted heavily toward common core subjects of reading and math, but what about the arts? Although some may regard art education as a luxury, simple creative activities are some of the building blocks of child development. Learning to create and appreciate visual aesthetics may be more important than ever to the development of the next generation of children as they grow up.

### **Developmental Benefits of Art**

#### **Motor Skills:**

Many of the motions involved in making art, such as holding a paintbrush or scribbling with a crayon, are essential to the growth of fine motor skills in young children. According to the National Institutes of Health, developmental milestones around age three should include drawing a circle and beginning to use safety scissors. Around age four, children may be able to draw a square and begin cutting straight lines with scissors. Many preschool programs emphasize the use of scissors because it develops the dexterity children will need for writing.

(Continued on next page.)

**Language Development:**

For very young children, making art—or just talking about it—provides opportunities to learn words for colors, shapes and actions. When toddlers are as young as a year old, parents can do simple activities such as crumpling up paper and calling it a “ball.” By elementary school, students can use descriptive words to discuss their own creations or to talk about what feelings are elicited when they see different styles of artwork.

**Decision Making:**

According to a report by Americans for the Arts, art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The experience of making decisions and choices in the course of creating art carries over into other parts of life. “If they are exploring and thinking and experimenting and trying new ideas, then creativity has a chance to blossom,” says MaryAnn Kohl, an arts educator and author of numerous books about children’s art education.

**Visual Learning:**

Drawing, sculpting with clay and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever. Even toddlers know how to operate a smart phone or tablet, which means that even before they can read, kids are taking in visual information. This information consists of cues that we get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and television.

“Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past,” says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. “Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it.” Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

**Inventiveness:**

When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. “The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements, not people who can only follow directions,” says Kohl. “Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!”

**Cultural Awareness:**

As we live in an increasingly diverse society, the images of different groups in the media may also present mixed messages. “If a child is playing with a toy that suggests a racist or sexist meaning, part of that meaning develops because of the aesthetics of the toy—the color, shape, texture of the hair,” says Freedman. Teaching children to recognize the choices an artist or designer makes in portraying a subject helps kids understand the concept that what they see may be someone’s interpretation of reality.

**Improved Academic Performance:**

Studies show that there is a correlation between art and other achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts states that young people who participate regularly in the arts (three hours a day on three days each week through one full year) are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.

SPRING WORKING DRAFT  
working draft -- **2019-2020 CALENDAR** -- major breaks

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

8/26-29 - In-service

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

9/2 - Labor Day  
9/3 - First day grade school  
9/4 - First day Early Childhood  
9/27 - Michaelmas festival  
in-school celebration

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

10/1 - Rosh Hashanah - no school  
10/9 - Yom Kippur - faculty/staff in-service - no school  
10/14 - Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day - school in session

NOVEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

11/11 - Veteran's day - school in session  
11/? - Lantern Walk date not set - EC, Grades 1 & 2  
11/25-26 - Parent/teacher conf. - no school  
11/27-29 - Thanksgiving break - no school

DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

12/2 - School resumes  
12/6 - Spiral of Light - in school celebration  
12/13 - 1pm dismissal - WF set-up - NO AFTERCARE  
12/14 - Winter Fair & Open House  
12/19 & 20 - Shepherd's Play  
12/20 - 1pm dismissal  
12/22-30 - Hanukkah  
12/23-1/3 - School closed

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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1/6 - School resumes  
1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - no school

FEBRUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

2/14 - Grade School Ice Skating field trip  
2/17-21 - February Break - no school  
2/24 - School resumes

MARCH						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

3/25 - Evening Grade School Assembly  
3/26 - All school 1pm dismissal - Parent/teacher conferences  
3/27 - Parent/teacher conferences - no school

APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

4/6-10 - Spring Break  
4/8-16 - Passover  
4/12 - Easter  
4/13 - School resumes

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

5/1 - Family & Friends Day  
5/2 - Mayfaire & Open House  
5/22 - Faculty/staff in-service - no school  
5/25 - Memorial Day - no school

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

6/10 - Last day Early Childhood  
6/11 - Last day Grade school - 1pm dismissal  
6/13 - 8th grade Graduation

**FOR YOUR PLANNING:**  
This calendar will be finalized with additional dates and data. You may receive an update near the end of the school-year and then a final calendar in August/September. The core dates in this calendar are not expected to change. The dates of major breaks will not be changed.