



New York State  
"Essential Elements:  
School to Watch"



Statewide Network of  
Middle Level Support  
Schools

## VAN WYCK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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WAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK 12590  
(845) 227-1700  
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August, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to Van Wyck Junior High School (Van Wyck). Van Wyck is known for its high quality programs and sense of community. This year is shaping up to be bigger and better than last. We have planned PEP rallies, assembly programs, and other special events.

Your children are very special to me and their happiness is of utmost importance to us. They spend approximately 25 percent of their day at school. As principal, I want to make that 25 percent count and be the most memorable experience in their lives. This is a lofty goal and one that we have to earn each and every day. Our school is structured to get us there. Van Wyck is organized into grade-level houses with each house occupying four teams of teachers and students. This house-team concept of teachers and students allow for a highly personalized educational experience. Teachers and students get to know each other very well. In other words, Van Wyck is organized to ensure student success.

Research is clear that the relationship between school and home is critical to the development of children. Open and honest communication between parents and teachers engenders trust and accord. Toward building stronger bonds between home and school, reach out to your children's teachers, consider joining our PTA, frequent "Open House" and attend other school-community functions. In other words, be involved! Your children need you now more than ever before for support and advocacy. We are here to help!

Student schedules will become available in late August on Parent Portal and in time for student orientation. Student orientation will be held this year on Tuesday, August 23, beginning at 8:30 am. There will be two separate sessions from 8:30-10:00 (7th graders and new 8th graders A-L) and from 10:30-12:00 (7th graders and new 8th graders M-Z). Once in receipt of your children's schedules, you can look up the teacher teams and find out their supply lists. Call the school if you need to register for Parent Portal. **Student orientation is for children and their parents!**

"Open House" is scheduled this year for Wednesday, September 28, from 7-9 pm. At "Open House" you will have opportunities to meet your children's teachers and learn more about the courses they will taking, including its syllabi, grading and homework policies, textbooks and/or resources used, special supplies, contact information, teacher webpages and extra help. I anticipate a big turnout and, therefore, encourage parents to arrive early to avoid parking delays and missing any part of the event. During "Open House" you will follow your children's schedules while changing classes approximately every ten minutes. More information to follow as we get closer to September 28. **"Open House" is for parents only!**

The updated District Code of Behavior and Student Handbook will be available on-line in the near future. It is important that both documents be reviewed in detail with your children. This is to help ensure their successful transition to Van Wyck. I also attached copies of the Van Wyck Dress Code to this opening letter for your convenience. I am confident in knowing that our skilled, talented and knowledgeable staff will be there to ensure that all children successfully transition to Van Wyck and enjoy their experiences here.

My best wishes for an enjoyable summer and successful new school year.

Sincerely,  
Steven H. Shuchat, Ed.D  
Principal, Van Wyck Junior High School  
(Home of the Mighty Griffins)  
**Follow us on twitter at: #GriffinPride@GriffinPride2**

*"Van Wyck Junior High School's faculty, staff and administration, in partnership with our parents, students, and community, will provide a safe and orderly learning environment that supports the academic, intellectual, personal, and social development of children, while maintaining rigorous standards and embracing curricula that prepares our students for college and careers."*

**Griffin Pride**



**The National Forum**  
to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform