

PARK RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

167 Sibbald Drive
Park Ridge, NJ 07656
(201) 573-6000 Ext. 2000

January 15, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

Happy New Year! 2020 is going to be an exciting time at both East Brook and West Ridge! We look forward to watching our students grow and develop. In coordination with the PTO, we have planned awesome assembly programs and other engaging school events. We want to thank our community for your support and on-going participation to help make our elementary schools the best!

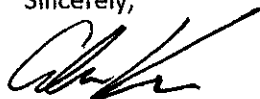
Since we've returned from our holiday break, we have received questions about *next* school year in reference to class sections and class sizes. We thought this would be an ideal time to share our district's vision with the Park Ridge community.

Our district philosophy will continue to support smaller class sizes at the primary grade levels (K-2). This aligns with research which indicates low teacher-to-student ratios at younger levels can produce greater academic gains. By providing small group instruction and early interventions, teachers are able to bridge achievement gaps sooner, assuring all student meet grade level expectations by year's end.

Class sections have, and will continue to be, consolidated as grade levels progress through elementary school. Consolidation might be necessary from a **budget and classroom space** standpoint, and will allow us to continue to offer full day Kindergarten at both elementary schools. As children journey through upper grades at East Brook and West Ridge, it is our goal to foster independence and provide opportunities to collaborate with peers, through both technology and during instructional time.

Our goal is to create the best possible learning environment for all students, and we firmly believe that our philosophy supports this. If you have any questions, you may reach out to either of us; however, no specific decisions have been made for the 2020-21 school year at this moment.

Sincerely,



Chris Kirkby
West Ridge, Principal



Kevin Stokes
East Brook, Principal

cc: Dr. Robert Gamper