

ROOTS READER

Roots Academy at West Hill Newsletter

Back-to-school 2023

A message from Principal Chaires-Francis

Welcome to a new school year in our newly named building, Roots Academy at West Hill! We look forward to working closely with you to support your scholar in every way!

We encourage you to visit the school district website at albanschools.org/supply-lists to find out the items your scholar will need for the new school year.

Please see the calendar below for information on when your scholar should report to school. Please also note our drop-off and pickup procedures below.

We are thrilled to announce five new programs this year:

Prospect U will engage students in new sports and recreation activities and build and nurture relationships in the school community on six Saturdays during the school year.

Power Hour Mentoring will provide mentors for certain students twice a week during lunch to help them learn behavior habits that will help them succeed in school.

Root3d Healing will support students twice a week during lunch by teaching them about mindfulness, with a focus on

conflict-resolution and peer pressure.

Roots Wellness includes our school food pantry, hygiene closet, clothes closet, health support and laundry facilities.

Parent U will provide resources that empower parents to raise children who are successful in school and their community.

Several wonderful after-school programs also will return this year, including ones sponsored by the Albany Police Athletic League (PAL), 4th Family and the YMCA.

Our faculty, staff and administration are committed to ensuring that our 2023-24 kick-off will be a successful one. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call school at (518) 475-6700. We can't wait to see you in September!



SAVE THE DATES!

- 9/7 First day of school, grades 1-5
Kindergarten orientation, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (teachers will call parents and assign a day to attend)
- 9/8 Pre-K drop-in orientation, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 2:30-3:30 p.m. (choose one time to attend)
Kindergarten orientation, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (teachers will call parents and assign a day to attend)
- 9/11 First day of school, all students
- 9/21 Back-to-School Night, 5-7 p.m.
- 9/25 No school, Yom Kippur

Drop-off and pickup procedures

The school day at Roots Academy at West Hill starts at 9:05 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Students in kindergarten-grade 5 may enter school at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast in the cafeteria. Prekindergarten students may enter for breakfast at 9 a.m. Please do not drop off your child before 8:30 a.m.

Morning drop-off

All students should be dropped off and enter the building through the main entrance on Clinton Avenue.

After-school pickup

- **Pre-K students** should be picked up at the playground doors at 3:20 p.m.
- **Kindergarten and grade 1** students should be picked up at the playground doors at 3:30 p.m.
- **Grade 2 and 3** students should be picked up at the main entrance at 3:30 p.m.
- **Grade 4 and 5** students should be picked up at the cafeteria doors at 3:30 p.m.

Please drop off and pick up your child on time each day! See more information on page 2 about attendance.

Keeping up with Roots news

At Roots Academy at West Hill, we communicate with families in many ways. One important way is through email. If we have an email address for you in our records, we can keep you informed about important events and activities that happen at school.

Parents and guardians automatically receive updates via email and phone call to the contact information on file in our student information database.

We can also send a text message to your cell phone BUT you need to give us permission. The easiest way to receive a text message from us is to simply text "Y" or "yes" to 67587 from a number that is on file in our student database.

Please help us help you stay informed! If you have moved or your phone number or email changed, please call school so we can update our information database and keep you in the loop!

A few words about school meals ...

All Roots Academy students are eligible to receive both breakfast and lunch at school free of cost.

Please make sure that the nurse and your child's teacher are aware if your child has any food allergies.

Attendance matters!

Students benefit in many ways from being in school: in their academic and social-emotional growth, and in the supportive relationships they build with peers, teachers and staff members.

Attendance matters in a student's success starting as early as kindergarten. Missing even two days every month causes students to fall behind. By sixth grade, chronic absence is a leading predictor that a student will drop out of high school. By ninth grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation than eighth-grade test scores.

Students are expected to be in school every day unless they are sick, have a medical appointment or have a religious reason. If your student is absent, you must provide a written excuse for every absence or late arrival. The excuse must be signed and dated and include reasons for the absence or lateness.

Being on time for school is part of having good attendance! Missing 5-10 minutes of class might not seem like much, but it adds up. Every time your child comes in late, they start the day playing catch-up. Help your child be successful and get them to school on time. Roots Academy is committed to working with you to help your scholar have great attendance!



Look for Roots fifth-grader Jah'Vi Garjales in the school calendar you'll receive in the mail!

Our vision

At Roots Academy, we work together to equip all our scholars with the academic and social-emotional knowledge and awareness needed to make good choices, advocate for themselves, and their community and transform the world. To that end, we set improvement goals each year to ensure we effectively leverage our families and community partners, and provide quality programming that is rigorous and culturally responsive.

Breakfast starts: 8:30 a.m. (9 a.m. for pre-K)
Classes start: 9:05 a.m.
Pre-K students dismissed: 3:20 p.m.
All others dismissed: 3:30 p.m.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

WHO'S WHO at Roots Academy at West Hill

Mrs. Chaires-Francis, principal
Ms Morin, assistant principal
Ms Venable, home school coordinator
Mr. Johnson, community school site coordinator
Mrs. Thorton, school nurse
Ms. Persio, school psychologist
Ms. Weiskotten, school social worker

Questions? Call us at (518) 475-6700!