



Dear River Dell Community,

Although 2012 has just begun, the River Dell Board of Education will continue to work on initiatives and enhancements for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond.

SURVEY

As always, input from the school community is vital to the success of our school and the achievement of our students. During the week of January 9, River Dell parents will be receiving a survey via email. In order for the Board to respond to the community, it is vital that everyone take a few minutes to complete the survey. Students and teachers will also receive similar surveys. Success from this endeavor can be easily measured by the numbers of responses received. We are striving for 100% participation. Please do your part to help us meet our goal.



SCIENCE

In looking at ways to better prepare our students to qualify for more challenging science classes as they move forward in high school and give them the deepest understanding possible of the material studied, the administration and curriculum office are proposing a change to the high school science sequence, which includes new science curriculum. On January 23 the Board will consider the proposed change for vote.

The cornerstone to this change is the introduction of a physics-based course in ninth grade. The course, developed by River Dell teachers for River Dell students, is based on two similar programs being used by other schools in Bergen County—*Physics First* and *Physics I*. With the change in the mathematics sequence which exposes all middle school students to Algebra in the eighth grade, even those who enroll in Algebra as freshman will have the mathematical basis to be successful in this physics-based course. This change will not eliminate any offerings of more rigorous

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Physics classes for upperclassmen, such as Advanced Placement; it will shift Biology in the sequence to junior year.

Please join us on the evening of January 23 to hear the details.



LAPTOP PROGRAM

As many of you are aware, the lease on the high school's laptops will come to an end in June 2012. The Technology Committee, along with the administration and our Director of Technology, have had several meetings to consider what the future of this program and what type of devices would best serve the district's educational needs.

Over the next few months, the committee will bring forth their recommendation to the Board for a vote. An exact date for this recommendation is not known at this time, so please check the website for future agendas.



TRI-DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Ever wonder what the Tri-District Committee does? The committee has been around for many years and you may remember it as the Bi-Boro Committee. The committee began as a dialogue between the Boards of Education of Oradell, River Edge and River Dell. Issues in education arose that were of concern for all districts and communities and this committee emerged as a forum for the Boards to discuss them and share information with all the respective Board members.

Since the formation of the Tri-District Curriculum Office, the committee also serves as a conduit for the elementary districts to learn about the 7-12 curriculum and the River Dell Board to learn about the elementary curriculum changes.

The Tri-District Committee meets three times during the school year with the representatives of each district's curriculum committees and superintendents, as well as the Tri-District Supervisor. Some topics of discussion, past and present, are state funding, regionalization, new mandates and New Jersey School Boards. The committee held its first meeting of the school year in November 2011 with subsequent meetings scheduled for January and April 2012.