

Runnemedede School District

BINGHAM & DOWNING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

August 14, 2025

Dear Bingham & Downing Families,

My name is Jade Yezzi, and I am honored to be the principal at both Bingham and Downing Schools. I'm excited to partner with you in supporting your child's achievement this school year. I have been in Runnemedede for 12 years and have over 25 years experience in education. I have always prioritized safety, positivity, data-driven instructional practices, and teamwork so that our students achieve academic and social-emotional success. I spent the summer months planning our school events, instructional plans/goals, and all of the details that help our schools function effectively and efficiently.

Our theme for the school year is **180 Opportunities to Grow, Learn, and Shine. Make Every Day Count!** The school year for students is 180 days. Each and every day can be an opportunity to grow in some way, learn something new, and shine bright. Our goal as educators will be to make every day count. I hope you will do the same.

As always, there are many events that will take place throughout the school year. I hope that all of you received my ["Save the Date"](#) email and are informed about the events taking place in a few weeks. If you did not receive that information, please contact our main office ASAP. We look forward to seeing the pre-k and kindergarten students at our meet & greet opportunities. It's a special time for them to see the classroom and meet the teaching staff before the first day of school.

I will send a monthly newsletter to you each month so you are aware of school happenings and special events. The newsletter will always be posted on our school website. You will also receive an email when we complete our mandatory security drill each month. You will **not** receive an email for our monthly fire drills.

The first day of school for students is Thursday, 9/4. All of our staff will greet the students on the blacktop outside at 8:15 AM. If you need help locating a teacher or have any questions, see a staff member. All staff members will have a lanyard on identifying themselves. **On Friday, 9/5, students will enter the building on their own and the teaching staff will greet them inside.** We have ample staff at the entry doors and throughout the building to help our students get to their classrooms.



Below lists some information worth sharing:

- You should have already received an email that will require you to update all of your information in our parent portal (Realtime) before you are able to view your child's homeroom teacher. Please contact our main office with any questions (contact information is listed below). You will be able to see your child's homeroom teacher by 1:00 PM today. **Please check email addresses, phone numbers, and add/update more emergency contact information.**
- Arrival & Dismissal:
 - **K-3rd:** Doors are open for arrival from 8:15-8:30 AM. Once the doors close at 8:30, students must go to the main entrance. **Please make every effort to arrive by 8:20 AM. Students who arrive after 8:30 will be marked tardy.** Dismissal is 2:55 - 3:00 PM - The first few days will take longer than usual.
 - **Pre-K at Bingham:** Doors are open for arrival from 8:35-8:45 AM on 1st Ave. Dismissal is from the same location from 2:35-2:45 PM. You will bring your child to greet the teaching staff each morning.
- Bingham (K-3): Students will enter in the front of the building near the playground (Entrance B). Dismissal will be in front of the school (K & 3 - Entrance B, 1st & 2nd - Entrance A - near main office).
- Downing: Students will enter and exit in the back of the building.
- Parking will be limited, so please consider walking to school to avoid any inconvenience. The drop off zones are clearly identified in various areas around the perimeter of the school. Parking lots are for staff only.
- No parents are permitted in the building beyond the drop-off stations. If you forget to send your child with his/her backpack, lunch, etc...the main office staff will buzz you in the main entrance and you will leave the items at the drop off station (preferably 9:30 AM-2:30 PM).
- **No dogs, bicycle riding, or smoking are permitted on school property.**
- Back-to-School Night for parents is on Thursday, 9/11, from 6:00-7:30 PM. We strongly recommend that students do not participate in this event. The schedule is as follows:

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| 5:50 - 6:00 | Doors open for arrival |
| 6:00 - 6:40 | Homeroom Teacher Presentation #1 |
| 6:45 - 7:25 | Homeroom Teacher Presentation #2 <i>In an effort to accommodate parents with more than one child, this is a repeat of the same presentation.</i> |
| 7:30 | Doors will be secure for the evening |

We encourage parents to visit the library and STEAM lab to meet our intervention specialists, special subject area teachers, and additional staff members at any time between 6:00 - 7:15 PM.

Again, our goal is to make every day count. Working as a team will help make that happen. Thank you in advance for your support. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work! I hope to see all of you at our annual kick-off event on Tuesday, 9/2 at 5:30 PM.

Sincerely,

Jade Yezzi, Principal of Bingham & Downing Schools

See below for more information about the school year

FYI:

- Students should wear sneakers or comfortable closed-toe shoes to school.
- Check out our website, www.runnemedeschools.org, for information about before/after care, supply lists, our food service program, teacher websites, and much more.
- If you have any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact our main office:
 - Bingham - 856-939-3192 or srost@runnemedeschools.org
 - Downing - 856-939-4036 or dclark@runnemedeschools.org
- Please make school attendance a priority. In the event your child will be absent, please call the school and leave a message on our 24 hour attendance line (prompt #1). We monitor attendance on a daily basis. If we do not hear from you, you will receive a message to contact us immediately. If we do not hear back from you, we will make every effort to contact someone on your list. If we are unable to contact anyone to locate your child, we will send our student resource officer to your house. Safety is a top priority.
- Our school nurses can assist you with health/medical matters. Email is the best way to communicate.
 - Bingham - Mrs. Shapiro lshapiro@runnemedeschools.org
 - Downing - Mrs. Feldman kfeldman@runnemedeschools.org