



# Clark Mills School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you that September 16th - September 20th will be Start with Hello Week at Clark Mills School. This special week aligns directly with our Year of Kindness campaign. The week's goal is to bring awareness about social isolation and making a difference in another person's life through a positive, uniting effort and to create a connected and inclusive classroom, school, and community.

Start With Hello teaches students the skills they need to reach out and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation. Last year, over 12,000 schools from across the United States participated in Start With Hello Call To Action week to highlight and spread the message of the power of Start With Hello's three simple steps:

1. See Someone Alone
2. Reach Out and Help
3. Start With Hello

We encourage you to talk to your child about the "Start With Hello" activities they are engaging in throughout the week and ask them to share what they have learned. Not only will that help you learn how to support your child to identify isolation and to reach out and connect with others, but it will also demonstrate to your child that you can support them in their actions to create a more connected and inclusive home, classroom, school, and community.

**Start with Hello Week will be a spirit week. (Remember, participation is optional, but encouraged):**

*Monday, September 16th*

***"Be Positive" Day***

Wear a shirt with a positive message!

*Tuesday, September 17th*

***"Wear Green" Day***

Show support for school and student safety by having your child wear green. Green is the recognized color of the "Start with Hello" project which was started by families affected by Sandy Hook. Students will discuss the importance of "starting with hello" and the reasons why inclusivity, kindness, and getting to know others that may not be in their circle of friends are important and necessary!

*Wednesday, September 18th*

***“Say Hello” Day - Wear tie-dye***

“Start With Hello” name tags will be distributed in school by the office for students, educators, and administrators to wear; everyone will be encouraged to greet each other by name in the hallway when entering school, classroom, and dismissal (students write the first name only on tag). A small hello acknowledging the person’s name can go a long way in making someone feel special or less isolated. Better yet, add a compliment with your hello, and carry on this concept each day of the school year!

*Thursday, September 19th*

***“Be You” Day***

Have your child wear something that expresses his/her personality or have your child wear something that is meaningful to him/her and displays something important to him/her! It could be a special sports jersey, a t-shirt with a message your child relates to or finds important, a shirt or hat representing a favorite band or singer or game! It can be anything about your child or something your child cares about (kindly make sure it is school-appropriate).

*Friday, September 20th*

***#Dynamite Dragon Day!***

We all may be different and unique, which is what makes us special, but we all have something in common - we are all part of the Clark Mills family! Have your child show school pride by wearing Clark Mills spirit wear or green/black/gray for our school colors! Staff will continue to greet our students with our High Five Friday Paw Prints as part of our PBIS initiative.

Thank you for supporting “Start With Hello” week and our school! For more general information about Sandy Hook Promise programs, please visit: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>.

Sincerely,

***Jayne Orlando***  
Principal

***Jessica Gent***  
Assistant Principal

