



Superintendent's Report April 28, 2022

I am pleased to report that the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation has named Closter Public Schools one of the “Best Communities for Music Education” for 2022. Our district has received this award for several years for the outstanding work of our music educators. Kudos to Ms. Pidi, Ms. Abbey, and Ms. Riecken for ensuring that our students can learn and grow with music. Congratulations also to our amazing student musicians and their parents for support. Lastly, I want to thank the Board of Education for their strong commitment to ensuring that music and the arts are part of a well-rounded education for every child in Closter Public Schools!

Our employee and community *Refer a Candidate for Employment* initiative is underway and we have had four referrals already! This program is aimed at attracting racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse teachers to Closter Public Schools. Information about the referral program can be found on the [Human Resources page](#) of the district website. If you know of anyone who holds New Jersey Department of Education Certification and is interested in employment in Closter Public Schools, please complete a referral form at <https://tinyurl.com/ReferralCBOE>. For the 2022-2023 school year we have some openings based on retirements: general education and special education teachers, school psychologist, and we are also seeking paraprofessionals and substitutes.

On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, several of our teachers presented at the Professional Learning Academy Graduation presented by the Northern Valley Curriculum Center (NVCC). The Professional Learning Academy is a series of training sessions that take place over the first three years a teacher is employed in a Northern Valley School. Congratulations to Ms. Brown, HES Grade 4 teacher, Ms. Leibowitz, TMS English Language Arts teacher, Ms. Mandal, TMS Art teacher, and Ms. Whitchurch, TMS Special Education teacher, for excellent presentations of the action research they conducted to improve student achievement. Thank you to the staff at the NVCC for all of their efforts in supporting our teachers for their first three years in Closter.

Recent media coverage has raised concern regarding the revised New Jersey Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education. The revised standards were written in 2020 and will be in place beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. As with all of our curriculum, we work collaboratively with our partner districts at the Northern Valley Curriculum Center to create a curriculum that meets the required standards. There is a curriculum circulating in the media, written by Advocates for Youth, that is being presented as the curriculum that all districts will be using. Closter Public Schools will not be using this curriculum. Our curriculum will be based on the [NJ Standards for Comprehensive Health](#). Please be assured that all content will be presented in a grade-appropriate format. When the curriculum is available from the Northern Valley Curriculum Center, we will post to our website the curriculum objectives, as we do with all curriculum. If any parent does not wish their child to participate in a comprehensive health lesson, they can opt out.

continued on back

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank you to our teachers and staff for all they do for our students. The PTO and KPG are planning with the principals for some special treats throughout the week to show appreciation. Thank you, teachers, we appreciate your instruction, your inspiration and your dedication to our students!

Pandemic Update

Since Friday, April 8, 2022 (the day after my last report):

School	Hillside Elementary School	Tenakill Middle School
New STUDENT cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	16	27
New STAFF cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	3	3
Students currently in quarantine	6	8
% of Students vaccinated (two shots)	43%	59%
% of Students also boosted	n/a	26%
% of Staff vaccinated (two shots)	94%	97%
% of Staff also boosted	35%	49%

Since September 2, 2022, the cumulative number of students who have been COVID-19 positive is 315, which is 26% of the student population.

Vincent Mc Hale