



Superintendent's Report

April 30, 2025

Our district celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, April 25, 2025, with a ceremony at each school to recognize the winners of the Closter Borough's Arbor Day poster contest. The winning students were recognized, and the student council officers from each school assisted in shoveling dirt around a newly planted white oak tree. At the TMS ceremony, the school orchestra played a beautiful, rhythmic song. Mayor Glidden shared a proclamation at both schools. We thank the Closter Shade Tree Commission for planting a tree at each school!

On behalf of the Tenakill Middle School Science Olympiad Team, thank you to everyone who has contributed to their fundraising efforts to help defray the costs for their trip to the national competition in Lincoln, Nebraska. They have raised \$5,648 through Go Fund Me, \$3,310 through their Spirit Gear sales. In addition to the generous donations acknowledged at the last Board meeting from the Korean Parent Group, Closter Coaches Athletic Association, and Closter Kumon, we extend gratitude to the Closter PTO, the Closter Lions Club, the Closter Elks Lodge, and Engineer's Mind Corporation for their generous donations as well! This brings the fundraising total to almost \$25,000! It's wonderful to see our community stand behind our students as they travel to the national competition to represent New Jersey! We wish our students all the best!

The *Profile of a Closter Learner* Committee has finalized the descriptors that will be listed under each of the six characteristics they have identified from the 480 stakeholders who participated in the THough. The six characteristics are: A Closter learner is a mindful communicator, a critical thinker, a self-directed learner, and empowered decision maker, a responsible citizen, and a well-balanced individual. Each characteristic will have five descriptors to identify how those characteristics can be observed. Last week, I met with three graphic designers from our community: two parents and one former student. The graphic design team is working on creating the visual that will be used to communicate the *Profile of a Closter Learner*. I will be meeting with the graphic design team again on May 13, 2025, to review their proposed design. I am proud of the work that everyone has contributed to this district goal. I will share the finalized work with everyone soon.

The Closter PTO Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Tenakill Middle School. All are invited to attend this fun event, which will include bounce houses, bungee trampoline, new carnival games, and much more. We look forward to seeing you there!

Next week, we will honor our exceptional teachers and school nurses for their dedication and support of our students. They play a vital role in our students' daily lives and help our students academically, socially, and emotionally. The Board and I genuinely value, respect, and are motivated by the remarkable contributions they make throughout the year.

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3 through 8 will occur during the month of May. Students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the NJSLA Science assessment. The principals will communicate to parents the specific dates on which their child will be tested. We ask parents to ensure that students are well-rested and have had breakfast on the morning of testing. I know that our students will do well.

The Tenakill Middle School Spring Concert will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Tenakill Auditorium. Our student musicians, under the outstanding leadership of Ms. Abbey and Ms. Riecken, always present an amazing concert! Please attend if you are able to support the performing arts in our school district.

I would like to express my appreciation to our outgoing Board trustee, Magaly Salamea-Cross, for her steadfast commitment to the Closter Public Schools over the last five years. On behalf of the entire Closter community, I am grateful for your knowledge, passion, and dedication, which have kept our schools among the best in New Jersey. Thank you also for serving as Board Vice President, for which you gave even more of your personal time to guide our district forward. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

The public hearing for our 2025-2026 school year budget is being presented this evening. Thank you to our Business Administrator, Floro Villanueva, his staff, our administrators, and the Board of Education Finance and Physical Plant Committee for their ongoing work in preparing a fiscally responsible budget. I am proud to share that the proposed budget maintains all positions and programs and includes the addition of a special education teacher and a world language teacher at Tenakill Middle School.

Vincent Mc Hale