



Superintendent's Report December 9, 2021

U.S. News and World Report recently published their first-ever rankings of public elementary and middle schools, and Closter Public Schools were named as having a “Best Elementary School” and “Best Middle School” because we placed among the top 30% in the state of New Jersey. You can read more about the ranking of Hillside Elementary School at <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/elementary-schools/new-jersey/district-117342> and the ranking of Tenakill Middle School at <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/middle-schools/new-jersey/district-117342>. Kudos to everyone for their work in keeping our schools among the best!

The NJDOE has determined that districts cannot use virtual learning for snow days. So if we have inclement weather, we will either use a delayed opening or will close school. Please note that our 2021-2022 school year calendar only has one emergency closing day. If we have more than one emergency closing day, we will add days on June 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2022. There is a bill proposed on December 2, 2021, in the New Jersey Senate, S4200, which would allow virtual learning to be used to meet the 180-day school year requirement. I will keep everyone apprised if the legislation changes to allow us to use virtual learning on an inclement weather day.

I want to thank our outgoing Board members, Sung Min Lee, Michele Bhagat, and Tony Linn for their devoted service to Closter Public Schools. On behalf of our entire Closter community, I thank you for your knowledge, skill, and passion which ensured that our schools remain among the best in New Jersey, if not the United States. I wish you well in your future endeavors, and please continue to be involved in our school district!

Closter Public Schools will be closed for the holiday recess from Friday, December 24, 2021, through Friday, December 31, 2021. Schools will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022. Again, be reminded that if unvaccinated students or staff travel outside of NJ, NY, PA, CT, DE, or outside the United States, they will need to quarantine before returning to school. This is part of our community-wide effort to keep our students and staff safe from COVID-19. Please review the [Quarantine Timeframes](#) document on our website or call the school nurse at your child's school for more information. If your child is fully vaccinated, they do NOT need to quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms. For children ages 5-11 who have been recently vaccinated in accordance with the new CDC endorsement and recommendations for vaccination, please note that your child will not be considered vaccinated until two weeks after they receive their second dose of the vaccine.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season! Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

Vincent Mc Hale