



Superintendent's Report

January 2, 2025

Happy New Year!

I congratulate our newly elected Board members, Christina Argenziano, Marilyn Estrems and Gal Paldi, who were sworn in this evening. Our fourth new Board member, Cathy Lee will be sworn in at the meeting on January 22, 2025. Thank you for your service to our school district and the Closter community! We are excited to welcome you to the Board of Education.

Congratulations to our music teachers, Ms. Pidi, Ms. Abbey, and Ms. Riecken, and our student musicians for their amazing performances in December! The Fourth Grade Chorus and Instrumental Ensemble presented a winter concert and cheered everyone's spirit with their songs of the season. Tenakill Middle School presented its magnificent winter concert with impressive performances by the chorus, band, and orchestra. Thank you to all for sharing your talents with the community.

During the month of January, students in grades two through eight will be taking the mid-year Linkit! Assessment in language arts and mathematics. Students in grades five through eight will also take the mid-year science assessment. Each of the tests will take about 45 to 60 minutes. The assessments provide teachers with information about how students are progressing toward grade-level standards. If you have any questions about the Linkit! Assessments, please get in touch with Ms. Zanin at Hillside Elementary School or Mr. McElroy at Tenakill Middle School.

In January, parents will receive an email inviting them to provide input on our district goal of developing a "Profile of a Closter Learner." We will use an online tool, *ThoughtExchange*, to ask, "What knowledge, skills, competencies and experiences will our students need to be successful in learning, work and life?" After entering as many responses as they like, parents will be able to see responses from others and rate them. This rating system will help to identify what our school community believes are the most important things to include in our learner profile. Then a team of administrators, teachers and parents will use the rated responses to begin the next steps in the process, which will include drafting the profile of a Closter learner. I encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming *ThoughtExchange* and have your voice included in this important process.

Our district goal of improving the guidance and counseling services for parents and students transitioning from middle school to high school continues with a second high school information session for parents on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 2:15 p.m. via Zoom. The focus of this meeting will be the high school scheduling process, what to expect in upcoming NVD scheduling conferences, and information regarding the course placement process. The session will be recorded and will be shared with all eighth-grade families, for those unable to attend the live session.

Closter Public Schools will be closed for students on Monday, January 20, 2025, which is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The faculty and staff will participate in professional development on that day.

We are excited to celebrate Lunar New Year on Friday, January 24, 2025. This celebration will occur at both schools with an exciting and educational assembly featuring our students. More information will be forthcoming.

Vincent Mc Hale