



Superintendent's Report

January 22, 2025

We held a Professional Development Day on Monday, January 20, 2025. Due to the snow storm, the day was held virtually. It was still a full learning day for the faculty, staff and administration. Our day started with a keynote presentation by John Comegno of the Comegno Education Institute. His presentation was entitled, "A Call to Wellness," and focused on special education. For the remainder of the day, there were various workshops, including *Meeting the Needs of Multilingual Learners*, *Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom*, *Practical Strategies for Responding to Challenging Behaviors*, *ACCESS Training*, *Analysis of Student Assessment Data*, and a *Child Study Team Retreat*. There was also time for department meetings. The feedback on the day has been positive. Thank you to the administrators and teachers who planned and led sessions.

We are excited to celebrate the Lunar New Year on Friday, January 25, 2025. This celebration will occur at both schools with an exciting and educational assembly featuring our students. The Hillside School assembly will start at 10:00 am. Tenakill Middle School will have two assemblies at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. The Board trustees are welcome to attend! Thank you to the Lunar New Year Committee, who have worked tirelessly to put this all together, and kudos to our students who will be performing in the assemblies! It is always a great day.

On January 8, 2025, we launched the *ThoughtExchange* to get input from all stakeholders on the question: *What knowledge, skills, and experiences will our 8th-grade graduates need to be successful in learning, work, and life?* This is part of our district goal to develop a *Profile of a Closter Learner*. So far, we have 451 thoughts and 13,961 ratings from 389 participants in our Exchange. But we want to hear from everyone in our school community! If you haven't yet participated, I invite you to join the Exchange and help prioritize key areas by sharing and rating some thoughts: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/828489051> If you have already participated, you are welcome to return to the ThoughtExchange and rate some more thoughts that have been added since you were last there. In February, 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.

As part of our district goal of counseling for middle school to high school transition, the TMS guidance team had a parent information meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. There were 56 parents in attendance, increasing the attendance over the first meeting held earlier this year. During the session, Ms. Earle effectively explained the whole scheduling process to prepare parents for the upcoming scheduling conferences that eighth grade students have at Northern Valley Regional High School. The recorded session was sent to all eighth grade families.

Save the date!! The Closter PTO will host their annual gala on Friday, March 21, 2025, from 7:00 to 11 pm at the Edgewood Country Club in River Vale. The theme is Viva Las Vegas. More information will follow soon. Check out the [Closter PTO webpage](#) for information on this event, the Me & My Guy Dance, the My Girl & I Dance, and more.

Vincent Mc Hale