



# Superintendent's Report

July 23, 2024

Summer has been a busy time here at Closter Public Schools! Once school ended, we held professional learning sessions for teachers and staff. Many of our teachers in grades K-2 attended a three-day workshop on *Phonics First*, which is an instructional program that we use. Ms. Zanin shared with me that the teachers were grateful for the experience, with one teacher saying, “the training was rigorous, and incredibly resourceful and helpful. From the bottom of my heart, I am so thankful to have this training under my belt.” We had another cadre of teachers from grades two through five participate in two three-day workshops for math and English Language Arts, which were led by instructional consultants and Ms. Zanin, who guided the elementary math sessions. The teachers reported that the sessions were an opportunity to learn together and to collaborate on instructional units to use during the upcoming school year. I thank the Board of Education for supporting this important work.

Fifty-seven of our students have been attending our summer program. The program began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and provides academic support and enrichment through this Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our administrators and teachers who have organized the program and for our students and parents for making the commitment to attend the 18 sessions!

Our custodians and maintenance staff have been working diligently on the summer cleaning routines, which involve deep cleaning of classrooms and waxing floors. This involves a lot of strategic planning to work around the summer programs and the Closter Recreation program that are using our schools during July and August. I applaud Mr. Scaglione, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, the maintenance staff, and custodians for working tirelessly to ensure that our schools are a pristine environment for learning and student growth!

We also have a number of construction projects taking place this summer:

- **HES Modular Rooms:** The addition of five rooms (four classrooms for small group instruction and one faculty room) at Hillside Elementary School using modular construction is well underway in the courtyard. The modular classrooms were delivered to the upper loop, and this week the construction workers are beginning to install them to the glass hallway, after constructing a firewall and a ramp for the hallway that will connect the school to the new classrooms. The construction manager is confident that the rooms will be ready for September!
- **Roof Replacements:** Project supplies were delivered to both schools. The roof replacements were scheduled to begin this week, weather dependent. The TMS project will take about two weeks to complete. The HES is a larger project and will take about four weeks.
- **Boiler Replacements:** Abatement work in Hillside School was completed before June 30, 2024. The boilers are currently being fabricated and are expected to arrive in the first week of August. The burners which operate within the boilers will arrive later – we will

learn the expected delivery date on July 26, 2024. If the boilers are not ready by mid-September, we will continue to use the current boilers until the new ones arrive.

- Window Replacements: The new windows for TMS have been ordered but we do not have a firm delivery date as of yet. The window company expects to begin installation in early October. The work will be completed after school hours and should be completed within a four-week time frame.
- HVAC Installation in TMS Gym: The vendor is currently securing permits for the project. Due to a long manufacturing time for HVAC units, this project is not expected to begin until sometime in spring 2025.

It is my wish that families are enjoying summer. A reminder to everyone that summer reading and math skills practice recommendations are posted on the [Hillside](#) and [Tenakill](#) web pages. In addition, the students in grades K-3 received a summer reading book to read over the summer and should be prepared to engage in planned activities for the first day of school in September.

Please enjoy the 43 days until school starts for students on Thursday, September 5, 2024. Our teachers and staff will return on September 3 and 4, 2024. It's going to be another great year for Closter Public Schools!

*Vincent Mc Hale*