



Superintendent's Report May 10, 2023

This week we are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurse Day! Thank you to our teachers and school nurses for all they do for our students. Their dedication goes beyond the classroom – they are role models, mentors, and guides who help shape the lives of our students. The Board and I value, respect, and admire your work throughout the year.

Thank you to the Closter PTO and the Korean Parent Group for their generosity to teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week!

Kudos to Ms. Abbey, Ms. Riecken, and all the student musicians who performed in the Tenakill Middle School Spring Concert on May 9, 2023. The caliber of the performances was top-notch! One of the songs the Tenakill singers sang was entitled, “Do I Make You Proud?” As I sat in the audience listening to the students perform, I wanted to respond, “Yes, you have made all of Closter proud!” The concert closed with the combined TMS Orchestra and 7/8 Band giving a rousing and impressive performance of “Great Locomotive Chase” by Robert W. Smith. It was an outstanding concert!

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science have started in Closter. Fourth-grade students began testing on Monday, May 8th and will continue through Friday, May 12th. Third-grade students will test from Tuesday, May 16th, through Monday, May 22nd. All middle school students will begin testing tomorrow, May 11th, and will test through Wednesday, May 17th. Fifth-grade and eighth-grade students will have the NJSLA-Science test on Thursday, May 25th, and Friday, May 26th. Students absent for testing will be able to make up any missed assessments.

I am happy to announce that we have been selected as a partnership district with Ramapo College in their new Archway Residency Model for the 2023-2024 academic year. As part of this program, we will work with Ramapo College to place their clinical interns (formerly known as student teachers) with cooperating teachers in our two schools. This is a great opportunity for clinical interns and for our teachers working with them to engage in deliberate analysis of the elements of quality instruction. Mr. McElroy and I will be attending some upcoming meetings at Ramapo College to learn more about our next steps in this partnership.

Our moving-up ceremonies for grades 4 and 8 will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, in Memorial Field. The fourth-grade ceremony will begin at 4:00 p.m. The eighth-grade ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to the Mayor and Council for granting us approval to hold these important celebrations at Memorial Field. The principals will be sharing more information with families about the end-of-year events.

Again, the Closter PTO Annual Dinner Dance, *Aloha on the Hudson*, will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Pier 701 in Piermont, NY; tickets are available online at ClosterPTO.org – early bird prices end tomorrow, May 11, 2023. I encourage everyone to attend this PTO fundraiser, which funds many student programs and resources throughout the school year. It promises to be a great night!

Vincent Mc Hale