



Superintendent's Report May 26, 2022

Let us take a moment to remember the lives lost in the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas this week. I believe that as a school community we must act by calling on our legislators for stricter background checks and gun limits in our nation. There have been too many attacks on innocent people in schools, stores, churches, and public places. I want to also let everyone in our community know that Closter Public Schools has the safety of our students and staff as a top priority. We are grateful to have such an outstanding partner in the Closter Police Department, who assist us in our emergency management plans, our monthly safety drills and by maintaining a visible presence at both of our schools each day. An important way for everyone to keep our schools safe is to report all threats to the police department, including any disturbing social media posts. "If you see something, say something," is a good motto to remember.

We are now in the final stretch of this school year, with 15 days of school remaining. Our fourth grade moving-on ceremony and eighth grade graduation will take place in Memorial Field on June 15, 2022. Thank you to our Mayor and Council for granting permission to use the field, which will allow us to provide enough social distance for families. The principals will share the specifics with parents of fourth and eighth graders. Please note that the final three days of school, June 16, 17 and 20, will be single-session days, as scheduled on our calendar.

Our district will sponsor several summer academic support programs including the Extended School Year Program, a Literacy and Math Program, and support for English Language Learners. Parents, if your child is invited to attend, please be sure to register!

The PTO Spring Fair will be Saturday, June 4, 2022. If you are able to attend, please come to Tenakill Middle School to have a great time and to support our PTO!

District Goals Update

- Goal #1: The District Diversity Council Action Plan for 2021-2022 had 13 action items and we have fully attained 11 of the action items. I have provided the Board with a progress report and the report will be posted to our district website along with my Superintendent Report. I am so proud of the work of our administrators, teachers, staff, students and parents for embracing this important work. Closter Public Schools have a diverse population and the work accomplished has acknowledged that we are a stronger community when we welcome and include everyone. The District Diversity Council has worked this year on an Action Plan for 2022-2023 which will be presented to the Board for approval at the meeting on June 16, 2022.
- Goal #2: A small, but dedicated, team conducted research on what future-ready skills would most benefit students. They conducted a survey of staff to determine what future-ready skills are already being taught. They created a resource document listing ways teachers can include these future-ready skills in instruction. The research team also recommends:

- professional development on creating a student-driven classroom; providing students with choice when demonstrating learning, best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion, and project based learning;
- providing resources for teachers to implement future-ready strategies;
- encouraging grade level teams to plan for implementing future-ready practices in every day teaching;
- continuing discussions with students about future-ready skills through the ICARE and TMS advisory programs.

Pandemic Update

Since Friday, May 13, 2022 (the day after my last report):

School	Hillside Elementary School	Tenakill Middle School
New STUDENT cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	11	21
New STAFF cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	2	2
Students currently in quarantine	9	7
% of Students vaccinated (two shots)	45%	59%
% of Students also boosted	n/a	26%
% of Staff vaccinated (two shots)	94%	97%
% of Staff also boosted	35%	49%

Since September 2, 2022, the cumulative number of students who have been COVID-19 positive is 388, which is 32% of the student population. Masking is still optional; however, the New Jersey Department of Health is strongly recommending that students and adults mask while inside the schools to reduce the risk of COVID-19, especially as our number of cases is still high.

School will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2022, in observance of Memorial Day. Closter Public Schools honors all the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Their courage and dedication will never be forgotten.

Vincent Mc Hale