



## **Superintendent's Report January 6, 2022**

School reopened on Monday after our holiday recess. The NJDOE has directed that school continue in person unless we are unable to staff the schools. Virtual learning is only permitted for students who have tested positive for COVID-19, unvaccinated students who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive, and for those unvaccinated students who have to quarantine. Our teachers, staff and students are continuing to practice layered mitigation strategies, including physical distancing, mask wearing and hand sanitizing along with well-ventilated classrooms. We remind everyone to stay home when sick. Since Monday, we have had 38 students test positive for COVID-19, which is 3.23% of our total student population, and nine staff members test positive, which is 4.61% of our staff population. At Hillside Elementary School there are currently 138 students quarantining or isolating and at Tenakill Middle School there are currently 85 students quarantining or isolating, which is 18% of the district student population. I have been in communication with the Health Officer at the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Department and the Bergen County Executive Superintendent of Schools to discuss our current numbers. They have both indicated that based on these numbers we should continue with full-day, in-person learning and continue with quarantine and isolation as we have been. We are following the NJDOH updates issued on December 30, 2021, for K-12 schools regarding very high COVID-19 activity levels and therefore we have postponed afterschool activities and sports through January 17, 2022. We will continue to assess the COVID-19 activity levels daily and if we are not able to resume afterschool activities and sports, I will let the community know.

I want to congratulate our new Board members, Liz Fanelli, Sheryl Wagner, and Janice Yeoh, on being elected to serve the Closter Public Schools community. These new Board members attended a district-led orientation in December for our new Board members and they will be attending required training with the New Jersey School Boards Association. On behalf of the entire school community, I welcome you to your new role in serving as a Board member!

Closter Public Schools will be closed for students on Monday, January 17, 2022, which is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King's said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" As a school district, let's continue in our mission to do everything we can for our students so they achieve success academically, socially, and emotionally. The Northern Valley Curriculum Center will lead a professional learning day for our faculty and staff on Monday, January 17, 2022.

*Vincent Mc Hale*