



Superintendent's Report June 20, 2022

What a great week we had last week! Our fourth grade moving-on ceremony and eighth grade graduation took place at Memorial Field on June 15, 2022. The weather cooperated and both ceremonies were a celebration of our students. Kudos to Ms. Smith, Mr. Tantum and their teams who worked to put together the events, not just moving up and graduation, for our students! We celebrated the annual egg drop, 4th grade picnic, 8th grade awards ceremony, 8th grade dinner dance, and plenty end-of-year events for all the grade levels.

The annual TREP\$ Marketplace took place on Monday, June 13, 2022, outside of Tenakill Middle School. It was a tremendous success with students creating, marketing and selling a wide variety of items. Items included hats, bath soap bombs, handmade tote bags, origami, vertical planters, Father's Day cards, magnets, jewelry, hand-made bird houses, and so much more. Thank you to Ms. Sunshine, Ms. Kahn, Ms. Kenny, and Dr. Flower, who worked with students on this great learning experience.

This past school year has been a notable one for our district! Hillside School was awarded a National Blue Ribbon School award, we received a 2022 Best Community for Music Education award, our eighth-grade language arts team placed third nationally in the National Language Arts League competition and our eighth-grade science team placed second nationally in the National Science League competition. Congratulations to all of our students, teachers and staff for achieving these honors and making our district great.

This summer our schools have both prepared optional summer assignments for students. While the assignments are optional, I strongly encourage parents to make a commitment to student learning over the summer. Research indicates that two months of reading skills and two-and-half months of math skills are lost over a single summer. Hillside Elementary School has posted Summer Recommendations for reading (students can read any books) and math activities on the [school academic web page](#), on the left-hand column. Tenakill Middle School sent information about the recommended assignments to parents through Schoology and have posted the Summer Reviews on the [school academics web site](#), on the right-hand column. Please check out the assignments and encourage your child to read and practice math at least a few times per week!

Our district will sponsor several summer academic support programs in July including the Extended School Year Program, a Literacy and Math Program, ESL support, STEM and Art. We have 83 students attending programs at Hillside Elementary School, 49 students attending programs at Tenakill Middle School, eight students attending the Multisensory Reading Program, ten students attending the Extended Year PreK, and eight students attending Region III Extended School Year programs. I am excited to share that learning never stops in Closter Public Schools!

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Pandemic Update

Since Friday, May 27, 2022 (the day after my last report):

School	Hillside Elementary School	Tenakill Middle School
New STUDENT cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	9	10
New STAFF cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	12	7
Students currently in quarantine	1	3
% 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 407, which is 34% 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 during summer programs. Please note, I will not be providing a pandemic report during the summer, but in the event of COVID-19 positive cases, we will notify close contacts.

School will reopen for teachers and staff on September 1, 2022. The first day for students will be Tuesday, September 6, 2022. I wish everyone a wonderful summer break!

Vincent Mc Hale