



Superintendent's Report March 10, 2022

We are proud of our middle school students who participated in the MathCounts Competition! The Competition series has four levels of competition—school, chapter, state and national. Each level of competition is comprised of four rounds—Sprint, Target, Team and Countdown Round. We had twelve students participate in the chapter level, which had a total of 260 competitors! Congratulations to our seventh grader, Sophie Chen, who has advanced to the state level. We are still awaiting the team round ranking, which could qualify more of our students for the state level. We are so proud of our students and offer best wishes to Sophie at the state level.

The PTO will have their annual dinner dance at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2022, at The Rockleigh. This year's theme is Prom Night – so dress to impress! This is the PTO's biggest annual fundraiser, and we are excited it will be back in person this year. For more information and to purchase event and raffle tickets, please visit www.ClosterPTO.org.

District Goals Update

The 2021-2022 district goals are posted at: <https://www.clusterschools.org/Board-and-District-Goals>

Goal 1: *District Diversity Council* – The district administrators, faculty and students are continuing their work on implementing the action plan items. Students at both schools will soon be celebrating “Choose to Include” week, participating in a “learn about others” campaign to read books with characters from a racial, ethnic, or cultural group different from their own, and our district will participate in a diversity job fair in April. The District Diversity Council will be meeting next week to begin work on drafting action items for the 2022-2023 Diversity Action Plan.

Goal 2: *Identifying Future Ready Practices* – The research team identified future ready skills, including critical thinking, communication, decision-making skills, problem solving, teamwork, initiative, business fundamentals, and more. Through research they also identified instructional practices that develop these skills, including problem-based/project-based learning, public speaking, collaborative learning, student-driven classrooms, using choice boards, etc. The team then surveyed teachers on how prevalent the practices are in classroom instruction. The research team has been working on developing action steps for eight instructional practices.

Goal 3: *Transition from Grade 8 to High School* - Mr. Tantum met with eighth grade teachers to review students' performance in grade 8 and during the first quarter at Northern Valley Regional High School. They will be having a vertical articulation meeting with the high school curriculum supervisors on March 21, 2022, to identify skills necessary for high school success and areas in which our students may need additional support prior to ninth grade.

Pandemic Update

Since Thursday, March 2, 2022 (the day after my last report), we have had one student at Hillside Elementary School and no students at Tenakill Middle School test positive for COVID-19. No staff members have tested positive. Since September 2, 2022, the cumulative number of students who have been COVID-19 positive is 252, which is 21% of the student population. With regard to vaccinations:

Hillside Elementary School

- 94% of staff are vaccinated and 35% have been boosted
- 41% of students are vaccinated; *HES students are not eligible for a booster*

Tenakill Middle School

- 97% of staff are vaccinated and 49% have been boosted
- 33% of students are vaccinated and boosted; 25% of students are vaccinated but are not yet boosted - total of 58% with vaccination, which is a good sign!

Vincent Mc Hale