



Superintendent's Report October 11, 2023

I ask that we have a moment of silence to honor the lives lost in Israel and the Mideast Region over this past week. It has been a difficult week for many of our Closter families. Please know that our hearts are with you. Our district will continue to have counseling available for any students who are experiencing grief or feelings of fear. I continue to encourage parents to monitor students' use of social media to avoid seeing images or videos of the horrific violence taking place. I wish for peace in Israel and the Mideast Region.

Our students observed the New Jersey *Week of Respect* last week, October 2 – 6, 2023. The students participated in various activities, including wearing blue to stand against bullying, wearing tie-dye clothing to celebrate unique differences, wearing pajamas as a reminder that school should feel comfortable and safe, listening to read-alouds, attending assemblies on preventing bullying, and learning ways to be respectful to all. We aim for everyone to be respectful every week, not just during the *Week of Respect*!

Ms. Smith, Mr. Tantum, and I attended a meeting this week at the Northern Valley Curriculum Center, where Dr. Thomas Guskey, a renowned expert in student assessment and grading, presented to the administrators of all Northern Valley school districts. His presentation was informative, and we will meet with him again later in the year to continue the discussion to evaluate and improve our assessment and grading practices in the Northern Valley.

Tonight, I will present the New Jersey Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) results from the spring 2023 administration. The DLM measures the academic progress of our students who have significant disabilities. At the October 26, 2023, Board Meeting, I will present the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) results from the spring 2023 administration. The NJSLA measures the academic progress of our students in English language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and in science in grades 5 and 8.

The Closter PTO has rescheduled the Fall Social to Tuesday, October 24, 2023. The [Closter PTO website](#) has information on purchasing tickets and about membership registration, the Fall Family Photo Shoot, the HES and TMS Book Fairs, and the Trunk or Treat at the Halloween Festival on Sunday, October 29, 2023.

Vincent Mc Hale