



Superintendent's Report July 15, 2021

Our fourth grade moving-on ceremony and eighth grade graduation took place at Memorial Field on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. Both ceremonies were a beautiful celebration of our students. I want to thank:

- Ms. Smith, Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Tantum, Mr. McElroy and Ms. Eichenlaub for their efforts in planning for the ceremonies.
- Our secretaries and custodians for all of their extra work in preparing the programs, certificates, diplomas, setting up the stage and chairs, and making sure that it all went off without a hitch!
- Our teachers from PreK – grade 8 who prepared our students for their milestones of completing grade 4 and grade 8. A special thank you to the teachers who organized and prepared students for the ceremonies.
- The Closter PTO, KPG and parent committees who planned and provided wonderful year-end extras for our students.
- The Closter Board of Education trustees for supporting our students and allowing us to have the outdoor ceremonies so that we could recognize our students in the way they deserved, especially after being socially distant for so long during the pandemic.
- The Closter Mayor and Council for granting permission to use the field; to the Closter Recreation Department and the Closter Police Department for their great assistance!

The School Restart and Recovery Committee is scheduled to meet on July 21, 2021, to continue planning for our return to full-day, in-person school days for all. The NJDOE and NJDOH released *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year* and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released updated guidance, as well. Once the committee has made recommendations, I will send out information about our reopening to all stakeholders, most likely at the beginning of August 2021. For now, please know that Closter Public Schools will provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year.

Our summer programs are in full swing! Kudos to Ms. Marotti, Ms. Menchise, and their students who are painting a colorful Hillside mural in the entry hallway! This mural will be an extra welcome for everyone returning in September.

The renovations of eight classrooms at Hillside Elementary School have started. The classrooms will be updated with new ceilings and floors, along with new lighting, storage cabinets, and sinks. This week the new floor tiles are being installed. The roofing project at Hillside is also ready to proceed, but was delayed due to rain. The roofing contractor will begin when the weather is cooperating, with an estimated completion date of August 10, 2021.

As summer continues, I encourage students to read, practice math facts, and read some more! Enjoy the warm days.

Vincent Mc Hale

