



## Superintendent's Report November 19, 2020

We are moving forward in implementing some scheduling changes for the second trimester. These changes were communicated to parents and the community in an email and in a Q&A Zoom session on November 9, 2020. The session was recorded and is still available on the district website for anyone who would like to reference it. Parents indicated in the Realtime Parent Portal their choice of instructional model for the second trimester. There were 58 students who changed from hybrid to fully virtual (18 at HES and 40 at TMS). There were 24 students who changed from fully virtual to hybrid (14 at HES and 10 at TMS). The principals are working on making these changes and we should be set to begin the changes on December 8, 2020, which is the first day of the second trimester. Ms. Smith and Mr. Tantum will communicate with teachers and parents so everyone is kept posted.

The Northern Valley Curriculum Center is assisting with providing some professional development for teachers in how to effectively manage the live streaming of their classes. Teachers of hybrid students will be focusing their attention primarily on the students who are attending in-person, with the at-home students able to watch the lessons on Zoom. I would ask parents and students for patience during the first week of the live streaming as teachers adjust to managing their in-person students and the additional technology to live stream the lessons. Teachers are working diligently to make this possible and administrators are prepared to support them in making this transition. As a reminder, parents are not permitted to participate in the virtual lessons, just as they wouldn't participate in in-school instruction. Parents must limit their presence during remote instruction and streaming lessons to setting up the Zoom session at the start of the lesson and helping the child if he/she disengages from the instruction. Lastly, during the streaming lessons, parents and students are not permitted to audio-record or video-record the sessions.

I am proud to share that the Closter faculty and staff are leading a series of programs for parents. On November 16, Ms. Weiss and Ms. Earle, our school counselors, led via Zoom a session entitled, *Motivating Your Child*. On November 17, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Hunt, and Ms. Gerbig led a session entitled, *Literacy Learning*, focused on supporting and promoting literacy in a virtual environment. On November 18, Ms. Saccoccio and Ms. Weiss led a session entitled, *Setting Up for Virtual Learning*, to share best practices about optimizing students' learning space at home. There is one more session on November 23, *Time with Technology*, led by Ms. Iyo and Ms. Klink, who will share tips and sites to support online learning. This Family Education Series was funded by CARES Act 2020. Thank you to all who worked on putting together this great resource for our Closter School families.

The Bergen County Technical Schools and Northern Valley Regional High School will hold a parent information session for the Institute for Interactive Design program. The session will take place on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 5:00 pm via Zoom. This is an innovative program for high school students and is offered at the Northern Valley Demarest and Northern Valley Old Tappan campuses. An informational flyer has been emailed to all eighth-grade parents.

Mark your calendars for a great Closter PTO Fundraiser @ the Closter Chipotle on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, between 4pm and 8pm! 33% of your purchase will be donated to the Closter PTO to raise funds for our schools! You will need to show a flyer or give them a unique code, 48NJK8N, which can be found on the Closter PTO webpage. The PTO thank you, as always, for your support!

During this time of COVID-19, I urge everyone to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday safely so that our school district can continue providing in-person instruction. If you have visitors coming from elsewhere or you're the one traveling during the holiday, arrival in New Jersey will require a 14-day quarantine. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

*Vincent M. Hale*