



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION JUNE 12, 2019

"Innovate to Elevate" is a phrase that lets everyone know that we are an educational community that is always aspiring to do more. Whether that's increasing academic, athletic or artistic outcomes, addressing the social and emotional needs of our students, enhancing the professional growth of our staff or engaging families and our community, we are always looking to move to the next higher step.

This has been a school year in which we have certainly lived this philosophy - and with my report tonight I simply want to express my deep gratitude to everyone who journeyed with us through a year of incredible change with more to come next year.

Together, this year we earned Future Ready Schools status for each of our schools, implemented a radical new student-focused schedule at Indian Hill and successfully provided differentiated math instruction in intentionally clustered and data-informed classrooms rather than in an antiquated system that used to sort children way too soon. We planned for implementation of full-day kindergarten in September and opened Science Discovery Labs that have changed STEM learning in grades four and five. We created beautiful new outdoor athletic facilities for our athletes while also dedicating a new state-of-the-art Cardio Lab. We prepared our schools for extensive renovations and additions scheduled to begin the moment our students depart tomorrow. We launched a community partnership program to provide our students with real-world learning experiences. We designed an exciting new schedule with innovative new courses for the new year to come at Satz. And we accomplished countless other things, all the while supporting three principals in their new assignments, and, as I am pleased to announce earning New Jersey Department of Education designation as a high-performing school district..

Clearly, we have lived up to the promise of our brand and we did all of these things and more because they are good for children and young people. We did all of these things and more because we have a staff that is forward-thinking and who know it is

no longer adequate for us to accept the status quo and who realize we must go beyond the basics in order to stay relevant, to make a substantive difference, and to be a leader in the education of our youth and in the contribution we make to the greater community.

As Superintendent of this great school district, I simply want to thank everyone who supported us and the over 3000 children who went with us on this journey this year. Stay tuned for more innovate to elevate efforts in the year to come.

In other news, I would like to thank and congratulate Mrs. Stacey Campbell and Ms. Jessica Scarpito for coordinating our building wide Crayon Collection initiative. Under their leadership, Village School collected 390 lbs of crayons that will be recycled and distributed to children's hospitals around the country! Great job to these two teachers and all the students and parents who helped contribute.

Congratulations also goes out to the Village School's PE staff for their leadership in coordination of Village School's Field Day activities. Through their guidance, along with the help and support of the PSA and Village faculty, the PE staff created a fun-filled day of activities and events. Awesome job and Kudos to Beth Semanchik, Meg Vinciguerra and Tammy Graham.

A big congratulations to Akarsh Kollu who attended the US Nationals for the International Geography Bee on Friday, June 7th. This event was held in Chicago and Akarsh placed 5th in the nation, what an amazing accomplishment for this 5th grade student!

Congratulations also goes out to Indian Hill's PE staff for coordinating 3 very successful field days at the Holmdel pool club. Their planning along with the assistance of the staff allowed the students to have a fun day of events and activities. Shout outs to Ed Patterson, Chris Wagner, Lauren Jacoby, and John Nacarlo.

Indian Hill's student council lead by Mrs. Trina McCarthy had a very busy year raising money and making donations to charities such as the local Bridges organization. Most recently boxes of loose school supplies including books and various other items were packed up and delivered to Bridges last week. Also, in celebration of Red Nose Day to end hunger, organized by IH's guidance counselor, Stephanie

Jennings, and the Student Council, another food drive, resulting in over 300 cans of food were delivered to the Keyport food pantry through Bridges. We are so proud of our students and community for chipping in and assisting those in need.

Congrats to members of the Satz choir who performed the National Anthem at the HFEE 5K run this past Saturday. Big thanks to the students who attended and to Ms. Christina Nigro who directs the ensemble.

Congratulations to the OUTSTANDING 8th grade Class of 2019 on their graduation tomorrow at 3:30 at the Collins Arena on the campus of Brookdale Community College. The celebration actually begins this evening with the annual graduation dance!

Sameer Eramilli, HHS Class of 2019 Valedictorian, was recently named a National Merit Scholarship winner. Our Senior Awards Night showed yet again the outstanding education that our students receive at Holmdel High School. The amazing accomplishments of our students is a testament to our staff, our administration, and the parents of this community. We wish all of our seniors the best, as they begin their journey on what is a very impressive list of endeavors.

And now for some notes of gratitude:

With the end of the school year upon us, we would like to thank all of our 18-19 PSA board and parent members for their hard work, diligence and support to the Village School throughout this past school year!! From the Fall Festival to the 3rd Grade Social, any success in our school can only come through the combined efforts of us all. So, we thank all of you for sharing not only your enthusiasm, but also your passion and most importantly - your time!

Indian Hill staff, students, and administration would like to give a huge shout out and thanks to our PLG for organizing and facilitating another amazingly successful Career Day! The students shared that this is one of their favorite days of the year and that is all a result of your hard work and commitment to our school. Many, many thanks for your continued support and hard work! The day was flawless and the luncheon was delicious. Thank you again for all your efforts and contributions, it is greatly appreciated!

Thanks , as always, to the Satz PSG for their relentless support of our students throughout the year. From "Welcome Back" bagel breakfasts in September to the regular Thursday "snack shack" sales to assisting on a GREAT trip to "Great Adventure" and sponsoring the 8th grade graduation dance, it has been one WONDERFUL year at the Satz school - THANK YOU!!

A huge thank you to the parent groups at HHS! Through the year, they did an amazing job supporting staff and students through gifting initiatives, as well as taking the time to celebrate many school/district accomplishments. As we close in on Graduation Day, no doubt Project Graduation will be a tremendous success for the Class of 2019, due to the effort our parents put into making this a memorable experience for all!

With this report, I wish everyone a wonderful summer vacation! With the exception of our seniors, who I wish the very best to, we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Robert A. McGarry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools