



# PENN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

260 Aster Street

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

412-793-7000 – Telephone

412-712-1009 – Fax

[www.phsd.org](http://www.phsd.org)

**John Zahorchak**  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
[jzahor@phsd.org](mailto:jzahor@phsd.org)  
Fax - 412- 793-5756

**Dr. John Mozzocio**  
*Superintendent*  
[jmozzo@phsd.org](mailto:jmozzo@phsd.org)  
Fax - 412-793-7825

**Joveline Pettus**  
*Director of Human Resources*  
[jpettu@phsd.org](mailto:jpettu@phsd.org)  
Fax - 412- 712-1009

August 7, 2024

Dear Penn Hills School District Staff,

Welcome back! I hope each of you enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating summer break. As we embark on a new academic year, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the wonderful possibilities that lie ahead for our students, staff, and community.

This year promises to be a significant one, full of opportunities for growth and achievement. Our commitment to providing a high-quality education remains steadfast, and we continue to focus on creating a supportive, inclusive, and engaging learning environment for all students.

Over the summer, our dedicated teams have been working diligently to prepare our schools for the new year. From updating facilities and integrating innovative technologies to refining our curriculum and professional development programs, every effort has been made to ensure that we are ready to welcome our students back to an enriching and inspiring educational experience.

I am excited to announce that we will be kicking off the new school year with a special staff opening event on Tuesday, August 13th. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to come together, share our goals, and set the tone for a successful year ahead.

Our theme for this school year is "Making Connections." This theme underscores the importance of building strong relationships—among staff, students, families, and community partners—to achieve our shared goals. It is through these connections that we can create a dynamic and effective learning environment where every student can thrive.

We will focus on four key areas this year:

1. **Safety:** Ensuring a safe and secure environment for our students and staff is our top priority. We will continue to enhance our safety protocols and practices to provide a protected learning atmosphere.

2. **Academic Growth:** We are committed to fostering academic excellence and growth for all students. Through rigorous curriculum and innovative teaching strategies, we aim to support and challenge our students to reach their full potential.
3. **Spreading the Good News:** Celebrating and sharing our successes is crucial. We will actively promote the positive stories and achievements within our district to build a sense of pride and community.
4. **Meaningful Professional Development:** Investing in our staff is essential for our continued success. We will provide ongoing, relevant professional development opportunities that empower and inspire our educators to grow and excel in their roles.

I encourage you to embrace this theme and these focus areas, seeking out opportunities to connect with your colleagues, engage with our students, and involve our community. Your expertise, dedication, and passion are the driving forces behind our success, and together, we will make a profound impact on the lives of our students.

As we begin this new chapter, please know that my door is always open. I value your input, ideas, and feedback, and I am here to support you in any way that I can. Let us approach this year with enthusiasm, optimism, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Penn Hills School District. I look forward to working with each of you to make this school year one of our best yet.

Welcome back PHamily!

Together in education,



Dr. John Mozzocio  
Superintendent  
Penn Hills School District