

Annual Update 2025-26



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Welcome Back to School

Michael Ben-David
Superintendent

Let's begin with a loud/joyous (early 😊) welcome back. While you were away, we were certainly busy.

This summer, our referendum and other capital projects began in earnest. At THS we have a new gym floor, a soon to be installed indoor turf field in what used to be the old fitness center and wrestling room, and have done some significant work on piping insulation and roof repair. We have also started renovating the attendance area in connection with the security vestibule buildout.

TMS is also in the process of receiving a new gym floor to go with new lockers and freshly painted hallways. We hope to have the new lighting and sound system in the auditorium ready by late February/early March.



Much of our elementary school work has been focused (for now) on Stillman School. We have new floors, new paint, a soon-to-be redesigned second floor, and (finally) an elevator. All of our other elementary projects are in early stages, and we anticipate vestibule work at all of our schools will commence in the next few months.

And remember, at this time last year we didn't even know if the referendum would pass.

Now, as for that earlier start to the school year, if you are still wondering why this makes sense, where this came from, or whether this idea is remotely novel (it isn't), perhaps this article published almost two years ago by [*The Echo*](#) can provide some detail/color.

See you soon!

Department Updates

Curriculum & Instruction

Brenda Yoo
Assistant Superintendent of C & I



The upcoming school year is filled with exciting learning opportunities for both students and staff across the district.

At Tenaflly High School, we're pleased to offer both the PSAT (for 10th and 11th graders) and the Pre-ACT (for 10th graders). This gives our sophomores the valuable opportunity to experience both college entrance exam formats and discover which suits them best. For juniors, the PSAT also serves as the qualifying test for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship program.

We're also excited to introduce a new Science Department internship program in partnership with Englewood Hospital. Open to 12th-grade students interested in medical careers, this 12-week rotation places students alongside physicians, offering real-world clinical experience and meaningful insights into the healthcare field.

Students will also see expanded access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses and new, engaging electives, including: Science and Artificial Intelligence, AP Physics 1, AP Art History, AP Spanish Literature & Screen Acting.

These additions are designed to both challenge and inspire students, while preparing them for future college-level coursework.

At Tenaflly Middle School, we're happy to share the return of recess for 6th-grade students, a fun and valuable part of the day that supports social-emotional development and well-being. Thanks to the creativity of our administrative team, students will now enjoy a dedicated recess period alongside lunch.

A revised daily schedule will also preserve full-period world language instruction, ensuring continued academic rigor while supporting student wellness.

Starting this school year, we are excited to welcome our youngest learners to the full-day Integrated Pre-K program at Stillman School for 3- and 4-year-olds. Our inclusive program brings children with and without disabilities together in a nurturing environment where they can explore, create, and grow.

And it's not just our students who are growing; our educators are, too.

This year marks the launch of a multi-year professional development initiative focused on strengthening early literacy instruction. Beginning with our kindergarten teachers, staff will be trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach through the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education. This research-based method will equip our educators with the tools to build strong foundational reading skills in our youngest learners.

Together, these initiatives reflect our continued commitment to supporting the academic, social, and emotional growth of every student while empowering the dedicated educators who guide them every step of the way.



Technology

Our team is planning to pilot high-tech classrooms to give teachers and students access to cutting-edge tools and working to cyclically replenish staff and student devices as part of our long-term equipment cycle. We have also streamlined and automated processes—such as account management, device updates, and program integration—through the use of ClassLink. In addition, we have improved and updated device repair and maintenance procedures. Our technicians will be housed in both the Middle and High School to provide technical support to both students and staff during designated hours. From upgraded backup systems and modernized technology spaces to a renewed commitment to innovation, every project this summer has been aimed at making technology an effortless, reliable, and inspiring part of daily teaching and learning.



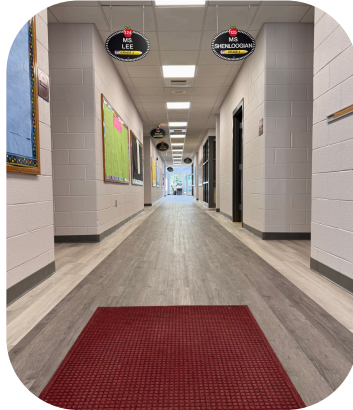
Facilities & Referendum Updates

In addition to the projects highlighted in the Superintendent's Welcome, recent upgrades include new roof work, ceiling grid and lighting installations, and refreshed gym spaces at both the High School and Middle School featuring new floors and fresh paint. These improvements mark important steps in enhancing our facilities for students, staff, and the community. Our custodial staff has been an integral force throughout the summer to ensure that all buildings are clean, safe, and first-day ready for students and staff.

TMS NEW LOCKERS



STILLMAN FLOORS, PAINT, HALLWAY UPGRADES



CLASSROOM CEILING LIGHTS/GRIDS



THS GYM IMPROVEMENTS



BRAND NEW
FLOORING AT
STILLMAN

YOU CAN FIND MORE
INFORMATION AND PROGRESS
PHOTOS ON THE
REFERENDUM PAGE OF OUR
DISTRICT WEBSITE!

Staff Introductions & Celebrations

Meet Our New Staff

District

- Steven Caraccio, *Social Worker*
- Beth Grant, *Chief Human Resources Officer*
- Anelys Kim, *Nurse Paraprofessional*
- Jason Megill, *Director of Facilities*
- Kerri Schaefer, *Financial Analyst-Payroll*

Mackay

- Edward Arias, *Teacher of Health & Physical Education*

Maugham

- Elise Campbell, *Second Grade Teacher*
- Jacqueline Clinton, *Fourth Grade Teacher*
- Wonchul Do, *Teacher of Music*
- Daniel Hoey, *Teacher of Students with Disabilities*
- Esther Loor, *Principal*
- Lisa Minasian, *Kindergarten/Fifth Grade Teacher*
- Erin Shyong, *Healthcare Professional (RN)*

Smith

- John Fabbo, *Principal**
- Yeji (Joy) Ha, *Teacher of ESL*
- Erin Kennedy, *Guidance Counselor*
- Elizabeth Mariotti, *Fourth Grade Teacher*
- KyungUn Rhee, *Teacher of Music*
- Alexandra Schmertz, *Third Grade Teacher*
- Gianna Vitetta, *Fourth Grade Teacher*

Stillman

- Mishona Waldis, *Secretary*

Tenaflly Middle School (TMS)

- Samara Avanzato, *Teacher of Students with Disabilities*
- Patrick Comey, *Principal**
- George Ferguson, *Teacher of Mathematics*
- Daryl George, *Vice Principal**
- Kasmir Grapski, *Teacher of Science*
- Erica Grillo, *Teacher of English*
- Jamie Kagan-Heit, *School Counselor*
- Rosemarie Malloy, *Teacher of Mathematics*
- Amanda McCarthy, *Teacher of Science*
- Carolina Nodarse, *Teacher of ESL*
- Jeanna Roncallo, *Teacher of Students with Disabilities*
- Claire Snyder, *Teacher of English*
- Ryan Wilkerson, *Teacher of Health & Physical Education*



*New role/location

Meet Our New Staff (continued)

Tenaflly High School (THS)

- Brianna Blanco, *Healthcare Professional (RN)*
- Alison Curley, *Teacher of English*
- Dr. Jennifer Ferrara, *Vice Principal**
- Yair Goldberg, *Teacher of Science*
- Madison Schroeder, *Teacher of Social Studies*
- Guyyee Shum, *Teacher of Chemistry*

TMS/THS

- Daniel DiMinno, *Teacher of Health & Physical Education*
- Grace Lee, *Speech Language Specialist*



Milestone Anniversary Celebrations

35 years

- William Breakfield, *Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds*
- Vincent Camizzi, *Teacher of Health & Physical Education*
- Michelle Preolo, *Teacher of Social Studies*

30 years

- Daryl George, *Vice Principal*
- Eileen Grieco, *Paraprofessional*
- Tara Haggerty, *Teacher of Students with Disabilities*
- Gayle Lander, *Principal*
- Harold Lawler, *Custodian*
- Jonathan Moreng, *Teacher of Mathematics*
- Ingrid Scanlon, *Teacher of Students with Disabilities*
- Jacqueline Wellman, *Elementary Teacher*

25 years

- Stacey Ann Bailey, *Elementary Teacher*
- Jerome Burdy, *Grounds Worker*
- April Celli, *Teacher of Social Studies*
- Claudia Guerrero, *World Language Teacher*
- Timothy Jensen, *Teacher of Social Studies*
- Alan Lewis, *Custodian*
- Clement Levy, *Custodian*
- Nancee Pearl, *School Psychologist*
- Stephanie Perry, *Paraprofessional*
- Carine St. John, *Elementary Teacher*
- Eloise Zerling, *School Counselor*



Helpful Links & Resources

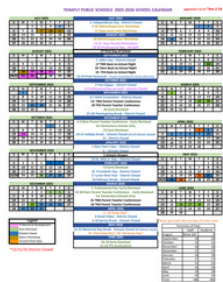
District Mission & Goals

The Tenafly Public Schools are guided by one simple mission - to advance student growth and learning.

This year's district goals include: Referendum implementation, district audits of elementary schedules and supplemental programming, personnel, and organizational structure, refining the RTI/I&RS process, a multiyear literacy initiative, metrics that matter and performance delivery, and an AI Think Tank.

To view the full list, visit: [HERE](#)

District Calendar 2025-26



Click here: [2025-2026 District Calendar](#)

District Calendar 2026-27



Click here: [2026-2027 District Calendar](#)

Right at School Before & After Care



We have a new partnership with [Right at School](#) for Before & After Care Services. You can find the information for registration on our website.

Food Service



Find more information about school-specific food services [here](#).

SchoolCash Online



Use [SchoolCash Online](#) to pay for all school items and activity fees.

SEPAC Parent Letter



Click to access a [welcome letter](#) from our Director of Special Services, Dr. Sandy Mercedes.

SEPAC Meeting Dates



Click [here](#) for SEPAC meeting dates for this school year!

Special Education Parent Reference Guide

Parent
Special Education
Reference Manual



Tenafly Special Education Services PreK-12
Department of Special Services
100 Tenafly Road, Tenafly, New Jersey 07649

This [Parent Special Education Reference Guide](#) and other Special Education information can be found on our Tenafly website.

Transportation



Click [here](#) for busing guidelines and information about private bus companies.

Community Organizations



Tenafly offers a wide variety of ways to support our students, staff and the community through our connections with [community organizations](#).

Let's have a wonderful school year, Tigers!



Please visit our [Tenafly Homepage](#) to find even more information about our schools!