



Michael LaSusa, Superintendent of Schools
25 Valley Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540
michaellasusa@princetonk12.org

April 6, 2026

Dear PPS Parent/Caregiver,

Well, we have arrived at the homestretch! I hope that your family was able to pause this past week for some extra time together and springtime planting/cleaning/grilling/etc. Following are a variety of updates as we look toward the final ten weeks of the school year.

Construction Projects

We have created [this page on our website](#) to provide updates regarding the construction projects arising from recent referendums. We are nearing the beginning of the construction phase for all of the 2025 referendum projects, and the following are very recent developments:

- The Board of Education approved of the contractor for the Community Park expansion on March 17. Principal Gruchacz will communicate details about timelines and plans regarding construction in the coming weeks and months.
- The Board expects to approve the contractor for the Middle School expansion, the Littlebrook expansion, and the High School renovation by the end of April. The principals will communicate details about timelines and plans for construction subsequent to the approval of the contractors.
- Work on the site and playground work at Riverside, Johnson Park, and Littlebrook will all commence right after the school year ends.

Technology/Device Use

I wrote to you in January about a number of technology-related issues. Since then, we have made progress in certain areas:

- **Web Filtering:** We have continued to examine how our students are using district devices to access the internet and we have made adjustments based on what we are finding. In Grades 2 - 8, where students use Chromebooks, we have scaled back access to YouTube. During January and February, students accessed YouTube about 1 million times per month from their district devices (most of this access occurred in grades 6-8). Most of these visits were to YouTube Shorts and had nothing to do with schoolwork. We have now restricted YouTube access to only videos approved by staff and we have blocked YouTube Shorts. On Tuesday, March 17, prior to the block, students accessed YouTube



Michael LaSusa, Superintendent of Schools
25 Valley Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540
michaellasusa@princetonk12.org

36,000 times. On March 24, the first full day of the block, the number of visits dropped to 7,000. We are continuing to monitor student activity on devices and will continue to place restrictions on what students can access so that we are focusing attention on learning.

- **Content Monitoring:** We will be piloting a content monitoring system called [Linewize](#) by the end of this month. This will not affect any student use of devices, but the pilot will provide us data on whether students are engaging in potentially harmful behavior via their district devices. We are particularly concerned with searches regarding self harm. The pilot will enable us to determine what systems we need to implement to ensure students are being safe while using district devices and the district network.
- **Cell Phones:** New Jersey's new [cell phone law](#) **requires** a bell-to-bell cell phone ban in **all** schools, effective next year. This means that high school students will not be permitted to use their phones (or internet-enabled watches, glasses, etc.) at all during the high school day. We are discussing how to best implement this law, but I want to advise you now that high school students will not be permitted to use their phones during the school day and that there will be a tiered set of consequences that will include progressive and consistent discipline for students who violate the policy and law. We have begun having discussions with students about these changes so that they are aware of what is coming in advance of next year, and we will communicate all policy changes in the summer.

DLI Survey

With the upcoming construction at Community Park, the district is entering the next phase toward reintroducing non-DLI sections at the school, with expected capacity to be able to accommodate two sections of DLI and two sections of non-DLI programming at each grade level. As we continue to prepare for this transition, we are seeking feedback on the program from parents. If you are a parent of a child who attends or has attended the DLI program, we invite you to complete [this survey](#) regarding your experience. We hope that this feedback helps us as we move forward.

Thank you as always for all of the support you provide our school district and I wish you an exciting and smooth finish to the school year.

Sincerely,
Mike LaSusa