MORRIS HILLS
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you may know, New Jersey has implemented a law (AchieveNJ) that requires each school district to utilize a research-based evaluation system for all certified school personnel, including teachers, counselors, case managers, and administrators. The Morris Hills Regional District has selected the James Stronge Teacher Evaluation Model, which is one of the models approved by the New Jersey Department of Education as meeting the criteria of the law.

One of the requirements of our evaluation system is to ask for student input on the teacher's performance. Your child's teachers may ask him or her to fill out an anonymous survey one to two times per year **(hard copy attached for your information—please do not fill it out)**. The purpose of the student surveys is to give the teacher feedback that he or she can use to improve classroom performance and/or student achievement. **Filling out the survey is completely optional.** Please find enclosed a copy of the Board policy that outlines the implementation of the student survey.

We hope that your son or daughter will provide his or her teacher(s) with honest, constructive feedback that will be used to improve the instructional program. Again, however, no student is required to participate.

If you have any questions about the student survey or the teacher evaluation system, please do not hesitate to contact me at (973) 664-2293, or via email at nzoeller@mhrd.org. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Nisha Zoeller

Nisha Zoeller
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Morris Hills Regional District Student Survey

The purpose of this survey is to allow you to give your teacher ideas about how this class might be improved.

Directions: DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THIS SURVEY. Your teacher's name, school year, and class are already filled out. Listed below are several statements about this class. Indicate your agreement with each statement by placing a check (√) in the appropriate box. If you wish to comment, please write your comments at the end of the survey. If you cannot answer a question, or if it doesn't apply to your class, feel free to leave it blank.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. My teacher knows a lot about what is taught.				
2. My teacher prepares materials in advance and has them ready to use.				
3. My teacher plans activities that help me learn.				
4. My teacher explains things so I understand.				
5. My teacher makes class interesting.				
6. My teacher uses different ways to teach and help me learn.				
7. My teacher cares about me as an individual.				
8. My teacher gives me help when I need it.				
9. I am able to do the work my teacher gives me.				
10. My teacher uses lots of different tests, quizzes, projects, and assignments to find my strengths and where I need help.				
11. My teacher lets me know how I am doing in the class.				
12. My teacher makes it okay for me to ask questions when I don't understand something.				
13. My teacher shows respect to all students.				
14. My teacher handles classroom disruptions well.				
15. I learn new things in my class.				
16. My teacher sets high standards for learning in the class.				
17. My teacher is enthusiastic and eager to learn himself/herself.				
18. My teacher gives clear instructions.				
19. My teacher listens to me.				

Other questions may be added by the teacher for specific feedback on class projects, assignments, or other areas with permission of the department supervisor.

What advice might you offer your teacher to help him/her improve student achievement? (Use space below or back of sheet.)

STUDENT SURVEY – TEACHER/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Board of Education believes that teacher evaluation is best accomplished by assessing a teacher's performance by using a variety of tools. Student achievement gains, observations by certified administrators, and student input taken together are all research-based methods to assess teacher performance. In compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 6-122, the district has adopted a research-based evaluation program that is used to assess teacher effectiveness. The term "teacher" for the purposes of this policy refers to anyone holding certificate issued by the New Jersey Department of Education who is not working in an administrative position.

One part of that program requires the teacher to conduct confidential, anonymous surveys in his/her class or service area at least 2 times per year. These surveys are designed to gather information for the teacher concerning the student's perception of his/her effectiveness. Students will be informed that their participation is voluntary and that they may opt-out of completing the survey. Students will also be informed that their grades will not be impacted if they elect not to participate, nor will they receive extra credit for participating. The template survey is used for all disciplines and is approved by district administration. Additional questions may be added by the teacher but must be approved by his/her supervisor. The completed surveys are reviewed by each teacher with a summary presented to the teacher's administrator as part of the data to be included in his/her year-end evaluation.

In order to receive meaningful data for this process, students must believe their responses are anonymous and confidential. The district will not tolerate retaliation against any student, group of students or class as a whole for the results of any student survey. Any complaint of retaliation will be reviewed by the supervisor and, if found to be true, will be addressed with the teacher who may be subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted: 2/25/2013