



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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SUPERINTENDENT TO LEAD SINGING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

HOLMDEL (September 16, 2016) – Holmdel’s new superintendent plans to add his voice to the discourse around the National Anthem Friday evening in an unusual manner. Superintendent Robert McGarry, a musician and former music educator will lead the singing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* Friday night before the Holmdel-Spotswood football game at the district’s Roggy Field.

Responding to an invitation from Head Football Coach Jeff Rainess to sing the anthem this week, McGarry reflected on the timeliness of the invitation as September 14th is recognized as National Anthem Day, commemorating the day in 1814 that Francis Scott Key authored the lyrics.

Citing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies, McGarry believes that the national anthem is an “historical symbol” and that the ideas around patriotism and the events it represents play a role in “understanding and evaluating our history.”

According to the New Jersey Department of Education, “Social studies education provides learners with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to become active, informed citizens and contributing members of local, state, national, and global communities in the digital age.”

“Current events have always played a significant role in the Social Studies classroom,” McGarry said, “and the current events around the anthem have provided educators with an excellent opportunity to engage students in thinking about the essential question of the study of civics, government and human rights.” That question, according to the state standards is “How have economic, political, and cultural decisions promoted or prevented the growth of personal freedom, individual responsibility, equality, and respect for human dignity?”