



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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THE HOLMDEL 2020 INITIATIVE: KEEPING PACE WITH STUDENTS' FUTURES

HOLMDEL (August 14, 2017) – “A vibrant workplace. A cultural nucleus. A place where dreams come alive” is how those who have reimagined the former Bell Labs describe the transformation that is taking place within this beloved Holmdel facility. “For anyone who has toured the building it is easy to see just how dramatically the modern workplace is changing,” said Superintendent Robert McGarry. So too have the learning environments on the campuses of most colleges and universities changed. “As such, it is incumbent upon schools to prepare students to thrive in such work and learning spaces,” Dr. McGarry added. “The Holmdel 2020 Initiative will provide the kinds of facilities we need to prepare students for what they will encounter after they graduate,” he said.

The hallmark of a progressive 21st Century school curriculum is that it allows students to think critically, create collaboratively and to communicate creatively. An important component of the September 26th Holmdel Township Schools referendum is the effort to create a facility that supports and nurtures a learning community of students, teachers, and community members as they endeavor together to be future ready, prepared for college and higher education, and to have a thirst for lifelong learning.

At the heart of this work, and indeed, at the heart of any school, is its Library Media Center. In addition to providing resources to support students’ literary development, media centers have historically been hubs for accessing information and doing “research.” “Within the Holmdel 2020 Initiative is a plan that will redefine how we have traditionally understood research and reference by providing an environment, a teaching methodology, and a synthesis of skills that prepares students to guide their own learning and empowers them to use technology in new, innovative, and unexpected ways,” described district Supervisor of Technology, Engineering and Media Centers Caren MacConnell. The Holmdel 2020 Initiative will transform the district’s middle and high school “libraries” into Centers for Information, Inspiration and Innovation and transform what students are capable of achieving through their interactions within these spaces.

“Giving our students practical experiences in the kinds of spaces they will find once they leave us will help them adapt to what is a very different college environment today and ultimately, help them to be more competitive candidates for jobs in the future,” said Dr. McGarry.

For more information in anticipation of the vote on this plan on September 26th, click on “Academics” on the Holmdel 2020 Initiative website found [here](#).