



July 28, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools Community,

We are now approximately midway through our summer recess and I hope that you have been enjoying some much deserved rest and relaxation even with these high temperatures. The summer has been going extremely well and productively in the district. Please see below for updates.

*Summer Programs* - We have a number of summer programs occurring with our extended school year program for special needs students at Village School, including our 18 to 21 STARS program, as well as our varied Summer Step Up programs which are held at Indian Hill School, Satz School, as well as the High School. Courses include reinforcement in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science, as well as more enrichment based offerings. I have been tremendously impressed by the quality of instruction, the classroom engagement, and positive mindset and spirit of our students.

*Advanced Placement* - The district recently received its 2022 AP Scores. The high school saw a substantial increase in the participation rates. Linked is an infographic with additional [AP 2022 Highlights](#). Congratulations to our students and staff on a successful campaign!

*Facilities Work and Upgrades* - The district's Buildings and Grounds Department is engaged in their standard summer cleaning and maintenance activities alongside a number of larger scale projects including the recently completed milling, paving, and striping of the middle and high school complex. The complex's flooring project is now underway, with work on the new ADA-compliant playground at Indian Hill to commence in the next week or two. Additionally, the contractor is prepared to begin the new multipurpose turf field project and is awaiting the delivery of the turf material.

*Planning for Success* - It has also been a constructive summer thus far in planning which has led to the development of draft 2022-23 district goals. These goals will be approved at the August Board of Education meeting. The focal points are: 5 year strategic planning, increasing and enhancing parent engagement opportunities, districtwide positive behavior support systems, and ensuring greater parity in the student educational experience by bringing consistency and unification in the systems governing lesson planning, grading, staff observation and evaluation, and student support services.

*Recruiting and Hiring* - The district has been actively recruiting and hiring highly qualified staff. The cadre of new staff members for next year is largely set. We are in the process of reviewing, evaluating, and adjusting our new staff orientation programs which will take place the last week of August, as well as planning for opening two days of staff development for teachers and staff.

*New Village School Principal* - At last night's Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Tricia Barrett was appointed as the next principal of Village School. Mrs. Barrett comes to us with a proven track record of community building and engagement, moving the needle of student achievement, and leading her former elementary school to National Blue Ribbon status. A meet and greet with the Village School community is being planned, the date and details of which will be shared next week.

*Preschool Aid* - The administration had received several inquiries from parents/guardians with regard to the district's intention to apply for state preschool expansion funding. In order to qualify for this funding, a school district must have a free and reduced lunch population of 10% or more. As Holmdel's percentage is 1.5%, unfortunately, our district does not qualify for these state funds.

*ICYMI Summer Assignments* - Assignments were previously shared by the building principals and can be found on the district [website](#) for each respective school and the [Humanities Website](#) for 7-12. Also, please find some helpful and informative resources with regard to [Summer Reading](#) activities which were compiled by our English Language Arts Supervisors for all grades. Parents and guardians may enjoy at home with their children to foster ongoing love of reading and literacy reinforcement over the course of the summer months.

ICYMI At-a-Glance - [Important Summer and School Year Events](#)

**BE AWARE:** Please be aware that Friday, August 5th a non-emergent Fire Department exercise will necessitate the utilization of the hydrant between Crawfords Corner Road and the front of the High School main entrance along with the parking lots. The Satz School lots therefore will be closed from the hours of 7am - 4pm. Visitors may still enter the complex via the high school entrance.

*Public BOE Meeting* - This is a reminder that the board will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, August 31 in person at the high school media center at 7:00pm. The meeting will also be accessible via Zoom and the link will be posted to the following district webpage within 24 hours of the meeting. The board will continue to take questions from the public through this medium. We look forward to seeing you there.

I thank you for your time and consideration and wish you a restful and enjoyable summer recess.

[#WeAreHolmdel](#)  
[#HolmdelProud](#)

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone  
Superintendent