



HOLMDEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
DR. J. SCOTT CAScone

September 9, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools Community,

I hope this finds everyone well as we conclude the first week of the 2022–23 school year. In my travels throughout the district, the level of collaboration between school and community which I observed was inspiring and truly integral to our efforts. On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, and district staff, I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to all of our parents/guardians and students for all you did this week to help make this first week a success.

It is important to remember that the impact of the last two years, in some ways, remains. The school district is fiercely committed to understanding and addressing these consequences, whether academic or social and emotional. Other challenges are more obvious and persistently impactful, like, for example, supply chain delays and labor shortages, most notably in the area of transportation. I have linked a recent [article](#) from nj.com with regard to the state and nationwide bus driver shortage. I can assure the community that the Transportation Department's ability to ensure that all of our bus routes are contracted and staffed, is an accomplishment that is worthy of recognition notwithstanding some of the challenges which may have been experienced this week. Our families' willingness to team with us, to reconcile, and work within some of the ongoing constraints and challenges will be so critical and greatly appreciated. I kindly request that we exercise courtesy and civility in our interactions with one another. As members of our parent community, you can expect that you will be treated with professionalism and courtesy from the members of our professional community and we thank you in advance for exercising that in reciprocity.

Informational Updates:

As presented at the August 31st BOE meeting, the district will host a [Health Education Parent Workshop](#) on October 3.

CDC/DOH Guidelines: The district is in receipt of the very recently released updated guidelines. They are much more relaxed from the previous two years, providing a fair degree of discretion to local school districts. You may expect to receive additional information in this regard in next week's update.

ICYMI

[Start Strong Parent Notification](#)

[District Assessment Calendar](#)

NJSLA Individual Score Reports - The district will be mailing home individual score reports from the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments this month. For more information on understanding score reports, please visit [The New Jersey Assessments Resource Center](#).

Next Week's Back to School Night Dates

Indian Hill: Sept. 13th - Grade 4 - 6:30pm / Sept. 14th - Grade 5 - 6:30 pm / Sept. 15th - Grade 6 - 6:30pm

Chartwells Food Service Update

All cafeterias are open with full service. We are not utilizing the meal pre-order system for grades K-12. Students can select their meal choices during lunch. We recommend that parents review the menu with their children so they know what will be on the menu. The menu and other important information can be found on the district's [food service page](#). Funds can be applied to students' accounts via My Payments Plus or directly at the cash register. Pin numbers will be loaded into Power School early next week.

We are actively hiring part time positions. Earn while your kids learn. If you have any questions please reach out to Lauren Barry, Director of Dining Services. lbarry@holmdelschools.org.

Upcoming Event

On October 15, 2022, four of our teachers, Karen Bennett, Suzanne Givens, Trina McCarthy and Kevin McCarthy will be running a [Half Marathon](#) to raise money for No Limits Cafe. No Limits Cafe is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that trains and employs adults with Intellectual Disabilities including Holmdel students. It is their belief that EVERYONE has the ability to be a contributing member of society. See their website if you would like to learn more: <https://www.nolimitscafe.org>.

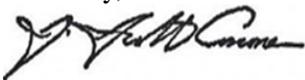
While this week most notably represented the opening of the 2022-23 school year, September is also the month in which our nation observes [National Suicide Prevention Month](#). The revised anti-bullying legislation signed into law by Governor Murphy in January 2022 also known as Mallory's law was in response to the death by suicide of Mallory Grossman, a 12 year old girl from Rockaway Township who had suffered ongoing bullying. This year the district has placed a concerted focus on anti-bullying training and education, the introduction of positive behavioral support initiatives, school kindness campaigns, and increased mental health human resources. Throughout the year, the district will be providing helpful and thought-provoking resources, as well as offering parent seminars on these topics. Please know that you play a critical role in ensuring that a tragedy like that which occurred in Rockaway Township, never happens here in Holmdel. I have linked an [article](#) which outlines a number of easy and immediate actions and steps which parents and guardians can take to protect their children from the dangers of social media and the Internet.

Finally, on Sunday, September 11, our nation will observe Patriots' Day in honor and remembrance of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. May we never forget the sacrifices and loss of that day and as importantly the way in which our country united and came together as one. Please join me in taking a moment on Sunday to pause and remember.

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

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

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone
Superintendent