



September 23, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools Community,

I hope this letter finds you well as we continue to enjoy a stretch of “local summer”, though we know that sweater weather, hayrides, apple and pumpkin picking are not far off. What a terrific time of year, as the first day of school dims in our rearview, the year continues to build momentum. Our middle school student athletes started their fall season today and our schools’ extracurricular programs will start to kick into gear.

Finding belonging and engagement in school or what [Nelson, Asamsama, Jimerson, & Lam \(2020\)](#) refer to as “school bonding” is positively correlated with both student achievement and student wellness. Our district offers an abundance of opportunities in academics, arts, and athletics. Please encourage and engage with your children in regard to getting involved. If you are unsure what might be available to your children, please feel free to reach out to the school administration and/or school counselors to learn more.

Back-to-School Nights

We will conclude our back-to-school nights next week with our middle and high school learners and I look forward to seeing you all there. *William R. Satz* **Sept. 27** - 6:30pm, *High School* **Sept. 29** - 6:30pm

Public BOE Meeting

This is a reminder that the board will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, September 28 in person at the high school media center at 7:00 pm. 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.

Pursuant the [2022-23 Board Goals](#) and in accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment](#) the administration will present the fall district assessment report to the board and public. If you are unable to attend or view the meeting live, the slidedeck and video recording of the presentation will be available on the district website and linked in next week's superintendent's update.

District Assessments

- [Start Strong Parent Notification](#) - Satz School and the high school successfully completed testing this week. I would like to commend our students and staff for their time and efforts in seeing this endeavor through to successful completion. The testing administration will conclude next week with Indian Hill.
- **NJSLA Individual Score Reports** - *The district will be mailing home individual score reports from the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments on October 7th.* For more information on understanding score reports, please visit [The New Jersey Assessments Resource Center](#).
- [District Assessment Calendar](#) - Please see the District Assessment Calendar for more information.

ICYMI

Parent Workshop

On October 3rd at 6:30 pm the district will hold a health curriculum information seminar for parents/guardians in the high school auditorium.

High School Open House

Holmdel High School will be holding an open house on October 13, 2022 from 7-9pm. This event is geared primarily towards families and students in eighth grade who are considering attending high school outside of the district at either parochial or county vocational schools.

Mental Health

The National Research Council and Institute of Medicine reported on aggregated findings from previous studies. They postulated that 13 –20 percent of children living in the United States (up to 1 out of 5 children) experience a mental disorder in a given year. ([Preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders among young people: progress and possibilities, 2009](#))

In continuing our focus on mental health awareness, I have linked an [informational booklet](#) for parents/guardians from the Monmouth County Mental Health Association which addresses the concerns raised by parents in [Lifelines schools](#) throughout Monmouth County. It also provides information about local resources available to you and your family.

Digital Citizenship

Last week, I shared an article providing tips on how to keep your children safe online. In this [Ted Talk](#) Social Psychologist Sonia Livingstone discusses, “how can parents ensure their children have a healthy relationship with technology? [Dr. Livingstone] suggests that the key lies in embracing technology alongside children -- and lays out a practical roadmap for how to get there.” Dr. Livingstone has authored and/or edited eighteen books and many academic articles and chapters pertaining to research with respect to children, media and the Internet.

Reminder: No school on Monday, September 26th - Rosh Hashanah

To all those families observing, may this year bring more sweetness, more joy and more time well spent together.

I thank you for your time and consideration and wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend of rejuvenation, reflection, and relationships. Stay mindful Holmdel.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone
Superintendent