



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

May 13, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools Community,

I hope this finds you all well as we prepare ourselves for the season of celebrating graduations, culminations, moving-up ceremonies, and all the accomplishments of our terrific students.

Please be advised that at approximately 12:05pm today, due to police activity in a neighboring town, Village School went into a Secure the Building status as a precautionary measure. This status ended at 12:14 when we were given the all clear by the Holmdel Police department. I can assure you that at no point in time were students or staff in danger and would like to extend appreciation and commendations to Chief Allocco, the Holmdel Police Department, and our law enforcement partners in surrounding towns for their quick and effective response.

Superintendent Shoutouts:

Congratulations to our Indian Hill students who participated in the Continental Math League this year for their outstanding achievement and to the staff who have supported and mentored them along the way. Students participated in five meets throughout the school year each lasting 30 minutes.

- The 4th Grade placed 10th out of 161 teams nationally, 2nd place in NJ out of 18 teams.
- 5th grade placed 5th out of 165 teams nationally, 1st place out of 20 NJ teams. The 5th Grade Team was recognized as a regional winner.
- 6th Grade: placed 4th out of 113 teams nationally, 2nd place in NJ out of 17 teams.

Felicitades, Congratulazioni, félicitations, gratulations, 祝贺 to the 49 Holmdel High School students who successfully took the [Seal of Biliteracy Exam \(AAPPL or ALIRA\)](#) and qualified for the seal and to our World Languages Department for this outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations to Holmdel High School student Rayan Jawa for his 3rd place finish at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in the microbiology category. Each May, more than 1500 students from roughly 70 countries and territories compete in the fair.

ICYMI-Testing Calendar: Please find the [District Testing Calendar](#) for your information.

Health Education Town Hall: The Health Education Town Hall was held last night, thank you to all of the families and staff who attended. Please find a helpful [“side by side” document](#) which outlines/bolds the deletions and additions to the updated New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The following are key takeaways regarding the district’s proposed approach.

- The district will assemble a team of staff members to engage in this curriculum/program writing

initiative this summer. The team will consist of health education teachers from the various grade levels, as well as representatives from the school counseling department. Further, the district is investigating the possibility of bringing in a vetted consultant to assist with the work.

- The scope and sequence would be designed, certainly for this inaugural year, whereby the newly introduced standards and content would be introduced no earlier than the beginning of the 2023 calendar year. This will ensure that the district has adequate time to write the curriculum and share the curriculum with the community no later than October, 2022.
- The newly introduced content would be incorporated into no less than one and no more than three standalone assembly-like programs. These programs would occur during the school day. The content, program objectives and resources, as well as the dates which these programs will take place will be communicated to parents well in advance, in order that they have an opportunity to communicate their intention for their child to participate.
- Parents who wish to have their students participate in these programs would opt in.

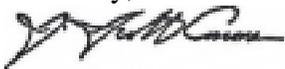
Lead Testing: Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Holmdel Township Schools tested our schools' drinking water for lead. In an abundance of caution and in accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Holmdel Township Schools will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). The test results as well as additional information can be found on the following [district webpage](#) and explained further at the May 25 Board of Education meeting.

I would like to acknowledge the observance in May of both [Jewish American Heritage Month](#) and [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#). I invite you to click the enclosed links to access some terrific historical and cultural resources.

Last and certainly not least, May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the [National Institute of Mental Health](#) (NIMH), approximately one in five adults and children have a mental health condition. In these times through which we have lived, it has never been more critical to prioritize our mental health and to do our part to destigmatize mental health issues for others. The school district is here to assist and lend a helping hand, you need only reach out yours. For your information I have linked a clearinghouse of [Mental Health Resources for Families](#). I have always believed that a tightly knit and supportive community goes a long way to building up our fellow citizens. Consider these [10 ways to spread kindness](#): be a force of light and hope.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration and wish you all the best for a restful weekend.

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone
Superintendent of Schools