



September 30, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools Community,

I hope this finds you well as we close another successful week in our outstanding school district. This week we concluded our back-to-school nights with Satz Middle School and Holmdel High School. In my travels throughout the schools and in speaking with parents, a consistent piece of feedback I have received is their observation of the positive energy and enthusiasm which seem to be permeating throughout our schools and personnel. This was certainly gratifying to hear, as with a positive mindset comes positive momentum and with that, progress and achievement!

### **September 28 Public BOE Meeting**

The Board of Education met for its first public meeting of the new school year. It was both a momentous and important meeting. First and foremost, we honored board member Mike Sockol for his 12 years of faithful service to the board. Mr. Sockol was unable to attend the meeting in person but joined virtually along with his family. I know you'll join me in extending Mr. Sockol a heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for his selfless service to the Holmdel Public Schools. To view the ceremony and presentation of the board resolution, please click [here](#).

In addition, the district Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Irwin, presented an update to the Board of Education and the community regarding the district assessment results for the 2021-2022 school year. To view the presentation slides, please click [here](#). To view the presentation video, please click [here](#).

### **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. The purpose of this seminar is to preview standards that fall under each grade level and to learn more about the parental discretion options and process.

#### **High School Open House**

Holmdel High School will be hosting 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.

#### **Reminder: No school on Wednesday, October 5th - Yom Kippur**

To all families observing, as the traditional greetings go, may your fast be easy and may you be sealed in the Book of Life for another year.

## **Week of Respect**

Creating a culture focused on learning requires us to pay attention to the social and emotional development of our students. We know that what is going on emotionally and socially can either support or disrupt students' learning. That is why school is a place where we teach and model self-awareness, persistence, and self-restraint.

There are many ways students are learning to develop their social and emotional skills every day. This week in my visits to the schools I was struck by the compassion and the thoughtful work of educators in supporting the students' social and emotional intelligence. I was excited to see students working collaboratively, offering constructive feedback and supporting one another. I also have had the opportunity to witness students engaged in mindful visualization practices, assisting them in getting centered and focused.

Each week as I visit schools and departments in our district, I am inspired and thankful I have come to a place that values children's social and emotional well being. I applaud the important work taking place in our schools and district every day! In the same vein of thought, next week, in accordance with The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.K.2010, c.122) and district goal # 3, the district will observe the Week of Respect. There will be a variety of age-appropriate instruction and programs focused on preventing/remediating harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying. The district will be publicizing the good and important work happening in our schools through our social media channels, as well as principals' weekly updates and the like; so please be sure to tune in.

In closing, I would ask you to join me in keeping all those families who are being impacted by Hurricane Ian in your thoughts and prayers. Our hearts go out to all those families who have lost loved ones, their homes, and livelihoods. If you are interested in making a donation, you may visit <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/donatefdf/> or text DISASTER to 20222. The Disaster Fund is administered through Volunteer Florida (officially recognized as the Florida Commission on Community Service).

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

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

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone  
Superintendent