



Superintendent's Report April 26, 2023

The NJDOE has posted the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports on the state website. I have posted a link to the reports on the Closter Public Schools website's main page. You may find the link on the right-hand side of the main page, which is listed as the *District Performance Report*. This link also contains my letter about the School Performance Reports, explaining what's new in this year's reports. I encourage everyone to view the performance reports to learn more about our district and schools.

I am pleased to report that once again, the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation has named Closter Public Schools one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" for 2023. This award recognized the outstanding efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who make music part of a well-rounded education for every child in Closter. I extend a special thank you to Ms. Pidi, Ms. Abbey, and Ms. Riecken for their commitment to helping our students grow as musicians. Congratulations to our student musicians and their parents! Thank you to our Board of Education for your strong commitment to music and the arts, which is essential for developing well-rounded students.

The Borough of Closter is celebrating Arbor Day on Friday, April 28, 2023, with the help of eighty of our students who participated in the fourth annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. Students at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School were invited to create a poster that showed why they thought "Trees are Worth It." The Shade Tree Commission selected a winner and an honorable mention for each grade level. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated in the contest. Arbor Day is an annual holiday focusing on appreciating and planting trees and we thank the Closter Shade Tree Commission for helping us celebrate by planting a tree at each of our schools!

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) for grades 3 through 8 will occur during May 8 – 12 and May 15 – 19. The principals will communicate to parents the specific dates on which their child will be tested. Students in grades 5 and 8 will take the NJSLA Science on May 25 and 26, 2023. We ask parents to ensure that students are well-rested and have had breakfast on the morning of testing. I know that our students will do well.

The Closter PTO has several events coming up:

- Military Bridge: Friday, April 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at TMS; tickets are only available in advance and can be ordered online at ClosterPTO.org
- The Spring Fair: Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at TMS
- The Annual Dinner Dance, *Aloha on the Hudson*, Friday, May 19, 2023, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Pier 701 in Piermont, NY; tickets are available online at ClosterPTO.org – early bird prices end on May 11, 2023, so buy your tickets early!

The public hearing for our 2023-2024 school year budget is being presented this evening. Thank you again to our Business Administrator, Floro Villanueva, his staff, and the Board of Education Finance and Physical Plant Committee for their continued work on preparing a fiscally responsible budget that ensures we maintain the excellence of the Closter Public Schools.

Vincent Mc Hale