



H a c k e t t s t o w n P u b l i c S c h o o l s N e w s l e t t e r

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

David C. Mango

Spring 2018

Dear Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional Schools community members,

This past November, our communities witnessed the first joint public meeting of the Boards of Education. This meeting was conducted to explore the possibility of realigning our schools K-6 and altering the send/receive relationship between the townships in grades 7 and 8. While this was the most discussed option from the feasibility study, it was an opportunity to enhance academic achievement and standards while contending with the rising enrollment in Hackettstown and decreasing enrollment in Great Meadows. Ultimately, each of these challenges has an adverse economic effect on our facilities. After much public debate, the Boards of Education decided to move in different directions, while always having the study as a mechanism to drive our future Long Range Facility Plans (LRFP).

In Hackettstown, the Board of Education selected to alter our existing neighborhood school structure into a hybrid grade based school structure. Beginning September 1, 2019, Willow Grove School will become a PK-1 facility and Hatchery Hill School will service grades 2-4. The Hackettstown Middle School will remain a grades 5-8 building due in large part to the possible negative effect and capacity concerns of moving the 5th grade to the elementary level. This restructure will enable staff to generate more productive professional development opportunities, maximization of preparation time and alignment of student learning standards - all in which equates into positive student growth.

If you recall during one of our several special meetings last spring, Pre-School services were presented to the public as an opportunity to immerse students into our school community prior to kindergarten enhancing their social, emotional and learning skill set. Additionally, this will provide a steady stream of revenue for the school district while helping to defray the cost of daycare services to parents. We witnessed tremendous growth in student achievement and social and emotional behavior with Pre-K programs implemented in Great Meadows. If you have an opportunity, please contact Mr. Michael Mai, Central School Principal, to schedule a visit.

In Great Meadows, the Board of Education chose to operate as we have in the past and not “mothball” or “suspend” Liberty School as presented as a possible option in the feasibility study. This option was presented due to the drastic drop in population in Independence and Liberty townships. While we cannot yet determine what this means from a future sustainability perspective, we are pleased to offer all three facilities to students, staff and community members in the 2018-2019 school year.

During the month of March, Shared Services Director of Security, Stephen Speirs, and I conducted a security presentation to our communities at the Hackettstown High School. The presentation focused upon district initiatives which began in 2013. It provided historical perspective and possible future security enhancements. The presentation is posted on our district websites for review. In addition, Mr. Speirs and I have been requested to conduct similar school security presentations at New Jersey School Board Associations' Warren County meeting and the Sparta School District's Safety and Security Summit. We take the security of our students and staff very seriously and it remains a top priority for the districts.



The next few months will move by very quickly so below is an update as to what you can expect at future Board of Education meetings which commence at 7 pm:

April 18th Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting

April 24th Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting 18-19 Budget Hearing

May 2nd Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting 18-19 Budget Hearing

May 16th Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting Teacher of the Year recognition

May 22nd Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting Teacher of the Year recognition

June 13th Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting

2016-2018 District Goals Presentation

L.R.F.P. Presentation – Ms. Woicekowski

June 26th Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting 2016-2018 District Goals Presentation

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all community members a relaxing spring season and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

David C. Mango

Superintendent of Schools

Great Meadows Regional and Hackettstown Public Schools

Hatchery Hill School - Marie Griffin, Principal

Now that spring has arrived we at Hatchery Hill celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff this year. Students are making significant growth and progress as a result of new strategies and programs that have been implemented, with great success, to meet the diverse needs of our students. This is due to the great effort and dedication of our entire staff.

We continue to promote Kindness and Respect throughout our school as a positive environment is of great importance at Hatchery Hill. If students feel safe and comfortable then learning can happen. We are very proud of the caring community that we have cultivated.

We have partnered with Centenary University to develop our mentoring program S.M.A.R.T.(Students and Mentors Achieving Results Together) which has been highly successful and has continued to grow this year as it helps so many of our students. Another highlight this year was our parent STEM Day which was

a huge success as students showcased their problem solving and thinking skills. This was one of the ways in which we have expanded our STEM/STEAM school goal this year.

As we move forward to the end of the school year, there are many exciting upcoming events such as our Kindergarten Orientation, Talent Show, engaging and educational Field Trips, Field Day and the Fourth Grade Farewell ~ be watching for further details!

Finally, we would like to thank all of our parents for their continued support and involvement.

Remember, "Together we can make a Difference".

Although mother nature does not agree, spring has officially started. We welcome the anticipated warm weather and what accolades it will bring during our spring season. As usual, the next few months at Hackettstown High School are going to be extremely busy. Evening events celebrating the accomplishments of the 17-18 school year will culminate with honoring the class of 2018 during our commencement ceremony. But before those busy nights are here, let's recap several amazing winter accomplishments and also provide a sneak peek of what to expect in the coming weeks.

Athletics:

HHS is coming off a historic Winter sports season. The Boys Basketball team won 19 games and advanced to the NJSIAA Sectional State Championship game for the first time in over 40 years. The Wrestling team had a strong season and two individual wrestlers garnered some tremendous accomplishments - Senior Joe Andes and Senior Alex Carida, both won the District and Regional Championship and participated in the NJSIAA State Championships in Atlantic City. Carida medaled and placed 3rd in the entire state of NJ. In addition, we had successful seasons with our young Lady Tiger basketball team as well as our Boys and Girls Swim teams. Keep an eye on freshman Delaney Bailey. She came in 15th in the entire state of NJ in the 500 freestyle and 100 backstroke when she participated in the NJSIAA Swimming Meet of Champions. To continue the success, Fencing didn't disappoint. Both Boys and Girls teams had solid seasons and to top it off, the Tiger Women's Sabre team came in 4th-place in districts. This accomplishment qualified them for a State Championship run. Finally, our HHS Gameday Competition Cheer Squad placed 6th in the nation at Nationals in Orlando, Florida!

Scheduling Update:

The Guidance and Administrative departments are steadily working towards the development of student schedules for the the 2018-19 school year. Guidance counselors met with all students in classroom settings in February. Students were: (1) given access the 2018-19 Course Catalog; (2) given a presentation on things to consider while scheduling for next year; (3) provided time to enter course requests for next year. In March, each student had a one-on-one follow-up meeting with the guidance counselor and in June students will be presented with a list of classes which have been successfully scheduled for 2018-19.

The spring assessment calendar is as follows:

- PARCC -- Algebra 2 & ELA 11 -- April 18, 19 & 20

- PARCC -- Geometry & ELA 10 -- April 24, 25 & 26
- PARCC -- Algebra 1 & ELA 9 -- April 30, May 1 & 2
- NJSLSA-S (the new Science assessment replacing the NJBCT) -- 11th Graders -- May 9 & 10
- AP -- May 7 through May 18

Co-Curricular Accomplishments:

Our Key Club worked with the local Kiwanis Club to put on a very successful Arc Winter Carnival. Our FIRST Robotics Team finished 16th out of 40 teams in the Bridgewater Raritan Tournament. For the first time in HHS history we hosted a District-Wide Band Concert. The performance included students from Hackettstown High School, Hackettstown Middle School, Great Meadows Regional, and Allamuchy.

Coming soon our community can expect our second annual Multicultural Night. This venue allows us to highlight different cultures represented within our community. Highlights include food from local vendors, live dances, artwork, poetry, face painting and board games from all over the world. To close, our Spring Musical this year is GODSPELL. If you are interested in viewing an exceptional student performance, please plan to join us in April.

Special Event Recognition:

Finally, we are very proud of our students at HHS as they organized a student assembly on March 14th to participate in "National Walkout Day," which was a nation-wide demonstration against gun violence. Students who chose not to participate in the student lead assembly were given a place to meet in our auditorium, and we even had a group of students who braved the cold weather to stand outside by our flagpole in a peaceful, silent, demonstration.

In addition, HS student representatives have taken great initiative in becoming more involved in our school community and allowing their voices to be heard! On the heels of the student led assembly, Student Government will be expanding to include student "committees," in the 18-19 school year, the Student Council plans to work with the administration to report back their discussions to peers during grade-level class meetings. Although this is an evolving goal, we are excited to see "Democracy In Action!"



After a particularly long winter filled with never ending Nor'easters, we are eagerly looking forward to spring at HMS! This spring, we will have our annual chorus concert on May 17th and our band concert on May 22nd. Both of these concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and we welcome you to come join us as we celebrate the performing arts and our students' efforts. Speaking of our students' efforts, student council has been working hard with the student councils of Great Meadows Middle School and Hackettstown High School to coordinate this year's Senior Citizen Prom. This year's Prom will be held at the Trinity House on Friday, April 13th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Our students will serve seniors delicious food catered by Blackstones, and entertainment will be provided by Doc South. To RSVP for the Prom, please call Mrs. Klaver at 908-852-8554.

In beginning the transition from this school year to the 2018-2019 school year, we are looking forward to meeting our incoming 5th graders on Wednesday, May 23rd. On May 23rd we will have our 5th grade orientation for students during the school day where students will have an opportunity to visit HMS. At night, we will have a parent meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. where we will share necessary information with our parents for the start of next school year.

In looking ahead to next school year, all buildings in our

District are in the process of developing building goals. At HMS, we are developing these goals with input from multiple stakeholders and are going to have one goal focused on students' social and emotional well-being. The objective of this goal will be to create a safe, nurturing learning environment focused on cultivating our students' maximum potential. To obtain this goal, we will implement a mentoring initiative where a mentor "guides" selected students through their journey at the middle school level. A mentor will be a staff member at HMS who will voluntarily work with the student they are mentoring on a weekly basis. The goal of this pairing will be to establish a positive rapport, and then to use this relationship as leverage for helping the student become the best version of his or herself. In addition to the mentoring initiative, our guidance department is working with a student led group to promote kindness throughout our building. The student group plans on having kindness challenges to foster random acts of kindness throughout our building. It is our hope that the mentoring initiative, coupled with the efforts of our guidance department and student led group, will foster the development of our students' social and emotional well-being benefitting our students, HMS, and the entire school community!

Curriculum Corner, Debra Grigoletti - Director of Curriculum and Instruction

This year the staff has been working hard to align the Social Studies, Physical Education and Health, Technology, Business and Art curricula to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The curriculum from each area will be presented to the Board of Education this summer and will be rolled out in the classrooms by September 2018. The district is also researching new Social Studies resources to enhance student learning.

As the school year is coming to a close, please keep an eye out for letters from your building elementary and middle school principals for the Academic Support Summer Programs if your child qualifies. I am currently working with the administrative team to bring back the summer academic program at all three schools.

I hope everyone has a summer filled with family, relaxation and laughter. I look forward to seeing everyone next year and continuing to strive to provide our students with an excellent educational experience grounded in high student achievement.

Sincerely,
Debra Grigoletti



Another fantastic and adventurous school year is rapidly coming to a close at Willow Grove! We are very proud of the accomplishments and growth that our students have shown over the course of the year. Students are flourishing and learning with the consistent support of their families and our dedicated Willow Grove staff and all this despite Mother Nature's best efforts to prevent us from coming to school! When warmer weather joins us, we invite **YOU** to visit our Kindness Rocks! Garden to be installed early this spring. Willow Grove students and staff have painted kindness rocks that will be placed in a garden next to our main entrance doors, reminding all of us to choose kindness as we enter and leave school each day! As the school year begins to wind down, we have a number of great experiences planned for our students! Our students will participate in our annual field trips this spring and visit exciting places such as the Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium, Turtleback Zoo, Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and Camp Bernie to extend the classroom beyond the walls of Willow Grove. We invite you to join us for these other exciting events:

Friday, May 4th - Willow Grove PTA Talent Show

Friday, May 18th - Willow Grove Kindergarten Orientation

Thursday, May 31st - Willow Grove Drama Club Performance

Tuesday, June 5th - Willow Grove Field Day

June 21st - June 22nd, June 25th - Early Dismissal at 12:30 pm

June 25th - Last Day of School for Students

Willow Grove appreciates the outstanding community and parent support we receive each and every day!! Your children thank you!

Hackettstown Public Schools Mission Statement

Building on tradition and success, the mission of the Hackettstown School District is to educate and inspire students through school, family and community partnerships so that all become positive, contributing members of a global society, with life-long commitment to learning.

Strategic Plan Vision 2018

Goal # 1 Student Achievement

Provide opportunities for all learners, through a variety of all programs as supported by technology and measured through the administration of benchmarks assessments.

Goal # 2 Finance/Facilities

Facilities

Maximize resources of the district to ensure safe, secure, technologically advanced schools.

Finance

Maximize savings through shared services and securing grants by hiring a professional grant writer.

Goal # 3 Communication

Embrace, expand, and utilize all technological advancements of our global societal shift as a means of communication from school to home and community are actively and positively involved.

Goal # 4 Culture and Climate

Develop a multi-cultural climate where all participants of our home and school community are actively and positively involved.

“Determination, Dream, and Destiny by Design”

We are on the web!

www.hackettstown.org

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Important Dates to Remember

April, 16, 2018—May 14, 2018 PARCC Testing All Schools (Check you child's School Calendar)

May 2, 2018— Board of Education Meeting

May 9&10— HHS NJ Biology Test

May 18, 2018— 1/2 Day Staff In-Service — 1/2 Day for All Schools

May 28, 2018—School Closed Memorial Day

June 6, 2018— Senior Awards Ceremony

June 7, 2018— Warren County Top 10 Banquet

June 18— 22, 2018 HHS Final Exams

June 18— 25, 2018—Early Dismissal All Schools

June 18, 2018— 1/2 Day Staff In-Service — 1/2 Day for All Schools

June 22, 2018— Middle School Promotion

June 25, 2018— Last Day of School and HHS Graduation

June 26, 2018— Last Day for Staff

*Please Check the District Calendar at www.hackettstown.org for 2018 Board Meeting Dates
Check your child's Local School Calendar for Important Dates.*