

# HAZLET TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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To the Hazlet Community:

- The Hazlet School Community celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 1st by hosting various reading events in every school.
- The Superintendent's Teaching Circle (STC) will meet in the third week of March to provide a forum for our most valuable resources— instructors and students!
- It's **Future Ready** season! All of our school-based teams hope to attain their Silver or Gold certification as Hazlet remains at the State forefront with this initiative.
- Good luck to all of the teams competing in the Regional STEAM Tank competition this month at Camp Evans in Wall, NJ!
- The Central Office Administration and BOE Finance Committee completed the 2019-2020 budget development, which unfortunately included a \$460,782 reduction in state aid. This has been completed without the elimination of any crucial programs or necessary staffing members while achieving an overall reduction in property taxes by \$50.00 for the average homeowner in the Township. The budget is scheduled for approval at the March 18th Board of Education meeting with a full presentation at the May 6th Public Hearing
- The referendum upgrades at Beers Street and Lillian Drive continue with bathroom renovations and HVAC improvements, along with installation of new casework and furniture in the classrooms. The creation of a new STEAM space at Beers Street has begun and the site upgrades for Hazlet Middle School, Lillian Drive and Middle Road are scheduled for this summer.
- The Special Services Department will be conducting a half day training on March 20th for teachers administering the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), an alternate computer based assessment for our most exceptional students.
- Each of our eight schools has received training on the newly adopted policy and regulation concerning restraint and seclusion for students with disabilities. Ongoing professional development initiatives are planned for both spring and fall of 2019 to provide Crisis Prevention Institute training to as many staff members as possible.
- Our Advanced Placement Computer Science A students will be competing in a programming competition on March 26th at Stockton University. Additionally, our television production students will begin working on their films for the 10 Day Film Challenge entries later this month.
- Winter saw both boys' and girls' basketball teams qualify for the State tournament, six male wrestlers reach the District finals (as the Rockets won the team championship for the second consecutive year) and, in their first season as a varsity sport, the girls wrestling team won the overall State team championship!
- Spring sports have begun and, as the baseball team begins its defense of last year's conference championship, we wish all our Rocket athletes success!
- The Gay-Straight Alliance is holding its annual Poetry Jam on April 3rd at 6:00 PM. Students and staff are invited to read favorite or original poetry or perform musical selections in a "coffee house" environment.

Sincerely,

Scott Ridley, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

*"Educating our students...to achieve their maximum potential."*