

Voorhees Township Schools

April 2025 Newsletter

A Message from Dr. Hackett

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the 4th marking period of the 2024-2025 school year, we celebrate the successes we've experienced both inside and outside the classroom. We remain committed to enhancing our students' experiences by seizing every opportunity for success. Our dedicated staff consistently works to provide a high-quality education that emphasizes rigor, real-world relevance, and engagement for all students.

Summer School Enrichment Program

Invitations for our summer school enrichment program will be sent during the first week in April to the parents of students in grades K-5. These students were selected based on their performance in the iReady Diagnostic #2 winter assessment and recommendations from their teachers.

Selected students will have the opportunity to receive instruction in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math from July 1st to July 31st. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Additionally, middle school students in grades 6 and 7 will receive an interest survey to enroll in themed ELA and Math classes. Each week will feature a new theme, allowing students to join their classmates for one week of instruction from July 7th to July 31st. The interest survey will be sent to parents and students in April.

2025-2026 Budget Overview

Our proposed 2025-2026 budget was presented and approved for submission to the Camden County Office of Education at the Board of Education meeting on March 12, 2025. The budget has since been submitted to the Camden County Office of Education for its review and approval. Below are the key highlights from the budget.

Tax Levy

The budget includes a 2% tax levy increase which is at the cap limit. Based on ratables and income, the state calculates that the fair share for Voorhees Township is approximately \$7.77 million higher than our tax levy of \$53,494,899. The tax levy represents an increase of \$82.52 per year (\$6.87 per day) on the average house assessed at \$263,518. In the fiscal year 2025, the local tax

levy represented 77% of the general fund budget. For comparison purposes, nearby towns such as Evesham, Mt. Laurel, and Medford have a range of 80.5% to 85.4% of their local tax levy funding their general fund budget.

Educational Programs

All current educational programs have been maintained, and the rising costs have been accounted for.

Lease Purchase

We are lease-purchasing certain items, including desktop and laptop computers, HVAC equipment, and textbooks, all of which have an estimated economic useful life of 3 to 5 years.

Capital and Maintenance Reserves

Capital reserve funds were used for security upgrades, including cameras, door hardware, and new playground equipment at Kresson Elementary School. The playground equipment was split-funded with CER. Maintenance reserve funds were used to offset a portion of required maintenance expenses. These expenses were balanced with necessary maintenance while maintaining reserve balances of \$2,000,000 for capital reserve and \$500,000 for maintenance reserve, ensuring availability for future needs. Overall, the general fund budget, excluding swings in capital projects, remains relatively flat with a decrease of less than 1%.

Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center Update

Despite the best efforts of the construction team and the district, we will not be able to meet the scheduled opening of the school on April 7th. We experienced a four-week delay due to the electric utility company rescheduling several inspection visits, caused by February snow and wind storms in the county that led to power outages. As a result, the new opening date for the school will be May 5, 2025.

Our updated schedule is as follows:

- April 14th through April 21st: Furniture delivered and assembled
- April 14th: Curriculum materials delivered
- April 28th: Staff enters the building
- April 29th: Arrival and dismissal drills
- April 30th: Parent Virtual Orientation at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
- May 5th: Students enter the building

We look forward to welcoming students on May 5th.

Third Annual 5th Grade Future Vikings Day

We will hold the third Annual Future Viking Day for current 5th-grade students on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at the middle school from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Fifth-grade students from each school will participate in mixed teams and engage in several team-building activities. This program serves as a valuable opportunity for our 5th-grade students to interact with one another, laying a foundation for their role as classmates in the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

Third Annual Inclusive Buddy Day

We will hold the third Annual Inclusive Buddy Day on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Special Education Department hosts this program, which involves self-contained special education classes and their general education student buddies working together to engage in team sports activities.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

Students in grades 3-8 will participate in the iReady Diagnostic #3 in April and May. This assessment period enables teachers to concentrate on small-group instruction in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.

The iReady program provides teachers with detailed reports on student progress and recalibrates each student's "My Path," which offers personalized instruction tailored to their individual strengths and weaknesses.

Additionally, our Instructional Coaches will focus on specific writing prompts and short constructed responses to support students in mastering these writing tasks effectively.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by both our staff and students. As they prepare for the iReady Diagnostic #3 and the upcoming state assessments, our teachers continue to provide personalized instruction and targeted support, ensuring every student has the tools they need to succeed. Together, we are committed to fostering an environment of growth, achievement, and resilience, setting the stage for continued academic success.

Parent Virtual Workshop

The last parent virtual workshop for this school year is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Andrew Moskowitz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction will present an overview of district initiatives.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94491730269?pwd=imp23dBAzOlZiWp5L7wW909sHs8lhl.1>

This workshop will update parents on several important district initiatives. Our goal is to keep parents informed about the purpose and progress of these initiatives, all aimed at enhancing the overall educational experience for every student.

Dr. Neely Hackett

Important Upcoming Dates

April 9: End of 3rd Marking Period

April 16: Family Night

April 17: Early Dismissal

April 18: Good Friday - Schools Closed

April 21-25: School Closed - Spring Break

2024 - 2025 Assessment Schedule

https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7358/Assessment%20Schedule%20and%20Requirements%202024-2025%20revised%2011_24.pdf

Superintendent Forums for the 2024-2025 School Year

The Superintendent's Forums provide an opportunity for the community to engage with me in a collaborative partnership with the ultimate goal of providing all students with a quality educational experience. Please join me to share ideas, knowledge, opinions, and concerns on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. at the Board Administration Building:

- Monday, May 19, 2025

District Spirit Theme Days

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/1/District%20Spirit%20Day%202024%202025%20revised.pdf>

Parent Virtual Workshops

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/ModuleInstance/5783/Parent%20Workshops%202024%202025.pdf>

Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/8957>

Download the VTSD Mobile App

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/7365>

Voorhees Township Public Service Event

Like us on Facebook - Check out all of the great things happening around the district!



Voorhees Township Public School - Administration Building

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