

Voorhees Township Schools

December Newsletter

A Message from Dr. Hackett

Dear Voorhees Township Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

As we embark upon the final month of 2023, we express gratitude for the special moments experienced this year and eagerly anticipate the new possibilities that await us in 2024.

Looking ahead to 2024, the endless possibilities that await us as a school district are truly exciting.

Our steadfast focus remains on our school year theme, "Building Pathways to Success: Empowering Students through Positive Connections," emphasizing the vital link between positive relationships and achieving successful outcomes.

I am pleased to share the exciting news listed below.

High Impact Tutoring Grant

The district takes pride in being selected for the High Impact Tutoring Grant. On November 3, 2023, the NJDOE announced approximately \$41 million in preliminary grant awards for the implementation of High Impact Tutoring in about 240 New Jersey school districts. This initiative aims to implement highly effective, evidence-based strategies promoting learning acceleration among third and fourth-grade students.

According to the NJDOE, High Impact Tutoring is designed to enable collaboration between school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, educational service vendors, nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities. The goal is to provide tutoring services at scale and offer educational assistance to students.

Voorhees has been awarded \$229,295.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. Our proposed project aims to establish an in-person tutoring program designed for third and fourth-grade students. Selection criteria include iReady scores and NJSLA results (for current fourth-grade students). The program will serve approximately 91 third-grade students and 96 fourth-grade students from four elementary

schools. Participants will receive both push-in and pull-out tutoring three days a week, with a planned summer component.

Key Fob System

On January 2, 2024, the district will commence full implementation of a new Key Fob system. This system requires all visitors to be greeted at the front door before being permitted entrance into the vestibule area, enhancing safety for our school buildings.

Intervention Programs

We offer a range of programs designed to provide additional support for our students in reaching grade-level standards. We continuously strive to enhance these programs to maximize their effectiveness. These programs include:

- Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Basic Skills Instruction (ELA and Math)
- Reading Specialists
- Tutoring (before and after school)
- Differentiated and Small Group Instruction within the classroom setting

By consistently improving and refining these initiatives, we aim to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students.

Second Annual Future Vikings Day

We are excited to announce the second Annual Future Viking Day for our current 5th-grade students. The event is scheduled for May 29, 2024, at the middle school, running from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. During this time, fifth-grade students from each school will gather, form mixed teams, and actively participate in various 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 2024-2025 school year.

Parent Virtual Workshops

I invite you to consider attending one or more of our Virtual Parent Workshops this school year, [Parent Virtual Workshop Schedule](#).

I look forward to our continued partnership as we collaborate on our shared mission of providing quality education to the students of Voorhees. Together, we will engage in a critical partnership that is essential for providing our students with the academic foundation to become contributing members of our society.

May whatever is beautiful, meaningful, and brings happiness be yours throughout the coming new year.

Dr. Neely Hackett

[DEI Committee Calendar](#)

[Substitute Teachers Needed - ESS Flyer](#)

Superintendent's Forums for the 2023-2024 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:

- Tuesday, October 24, 2023 - *completed*
- Monday, January 22, 2024
- Wednesday, March 27, 2024
- Thursday, May 16, 2024

Upcoming Important Dates

December 1 - School Closed (Staff In-Service)

December 12 - Parent Virtual Workshop at 7:00 pm

December 15 - District Spirit Day - Spread Happiness! Crazy Hat Day!

December 20 - Family Night

December 22 - Early Dismissal

December 25 - January 1 - School Closed (*Winter Break*)

January 2 – Return from Winter Break

2023 -2024 School Year Calendar

Food Service - Free and Reduced Lunch Application Information

The 2023 - 2024 online application packet can be completed [HERE](#)

- Please make sure that the entire packet is completed.
- You may access this link and apply for benefits anytime during the school year.
- **Prior Year applications will expire on 10/23/2023.**
- **Prior year forms do not carry over.**
- We encourage families to complete the Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals since it is also used to determine eligibility for P-EBT benefits, state funding, and other school benefits.
- If you do not want to apply for free or reduced benefits, you do not have to fill out the application.
- Paper copies are available below and at your child's school, ***but not the recommended process. We strongly recommend you complete the online application, [HERE](#).***
- [Parent Information and Application for Free and Reduced Program \(English\)](#)
- [Parent Information and Application for Free and Reduced Program \(Spanish\)](#)

Community Events

Community events can be found in our "District Community Backpack" by clicking on:

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/Page/41663>

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



Email: donnelly@voorhees.k12.nj.us

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Sue Donnelly

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