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August 31, 2022

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I feel incredibly fortunate to begin the 2022-2023 school year as your Superintendent. During my first eight weeks as Superintendent, I have learned that the Voorhees Township School District has committed staff members, supportive Board of Education members, dedicated community members, and engaged parents and guardians.

I am looking forward to welcoming back our students next week. Each new school year brings a sense of excitement, anticipation, and hope as we prepare our students to be productive members of our ever-changing, global society.

I also look forward to partnering with you as we work side by side to continue to provide students with a quality educational experience that meets their individual learning needs.

The District is committed to ensuring that each student has a rigorous and relevant learning experience in a safe and secure learning environment. To this end, please note the information below.

#### **District Calendar**

Please refer to the 2022-2023 District for important links:

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7371/2022%202023%20School%20Year%20Calendar%20Final%20BOE%20Approved%20Feb%202022.pdf>.

#### **Lunch**

Information about the 2022-2023 lunch program can be found using the following link:  
<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/40/NSFM%20Back%20to%20School%20Letter%202022-23.pdf>.

Over the past two years, the USDA made it possible to serve all students free breakfast and lunch through a waiver process. This waiver has **not** been extended for 2022-2023 school year. Therefore, we encourage all families to complete a Free and Reduced Lunch Application as the information is used to determine eligibility for P-EBT benefits, state funding, and other district benefits:  
<https://mealapp.lunchtimesoftware.net/>

Additionally, please be advised that the District will again practice a no-cash payment system. The LunchTime portal must be used to deposit funds. <http://www.schoolpaymentportal.com/>

### **Masks**

The wearing of masks remains optional for students, staff, and visitors.

### **COVID-19 Protocols**

We will continue to align the practices of the District with guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New Jersey Department of Health, and Camden County Health Department. The current protocols for the District will be posted on the District's website by September 6, 2022.

### **Chronic Absenteeism**

Regular attendance is primary to promoting the academic success of students. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) considers a student chronically absent if the student misses more than 10% of the total enrollment days. Therefore, students enrolled in the District for the entire year are considered chronically absent if they are absent for more than 18 days. Research has determined that students are negatively impacted when absences become a pattern. It may not seem like a concern if a student misses just one or two days of school a month, but over time, those days of lost learning can lead to years of academic struggles and challenges beyond the classroom.

### **Parent Monthly Virtual Workshops**

I am pleased to announce that over 200 parents and guardians participated in the Parent Monthly Virtual Workshop Survey. This survey provided the District with information regarding the types of workshops that interest parents and guardians. The link below provides the dates and topics for our 2022-2023 Parent Monthly Virtual Workshops. The information can also be found on the District's website. I hope that you have the opportunity to attend the workshops.

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/1/Parent%20Workshops%2022-23.pdf>

### **Monthly District Spirit Themes**

We will have monthly spirit theme days to continue to focus on the strong sense of community within the District. Friday, September 16, 2022, will focus on the theme of Teamwork. All students and staff are encouraged to wear sports attire. The list of spirit theme days for the school year can be found on the District's website.

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

### **Annual Report for the 2021-2022 School Year**

The Annual Report for the 2021-2022 school year highlights our schools, instructional programs, and staff. Please enjoy reading this report.

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7355/Annual%20Report%202021%20%202022%20Final.pdf>

I eagerly await the return of your children **on September 6, 2022**, and anticipate a successful school year. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Neely Hackett*

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