



# Voorhees Township Schools

*January Newsletter*

## **A Message from Dr. Hackett**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year!

As we embark on the new year, I am grateful for the opportunities it brings and feel privileged to share these experiences with you as the Superintendent of Voorhees Township Public Schools.

As we look forward to the boundless possibilities that 2024 holds, I am eager to discuss these prospects with parents and guardians.

Our unwavering focus remains on our school year theme, "Building Pathways to Success: Empowering Students through Positive Connections," highlighting the crucial connection between positive relationships and achieving successful outcomes.

I am delighted to announce that our district has received another grant, the New Jersey Preschool Inclusive Education Project (NJPIEP) grant, sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and facilitated by Montclair State University. Out of 23 districts that applied, Voorhees advanced to the second round, involving an on-site interview. Although initially not selected among the three grant recipients, a subsequent opportunity arose when another district withdrew. After a comprehensive review of our application and interview, the Associate Director of Education, Inclusion, and Development at Montclair State University recommended us for the grant, a recommendation accepted by the NJDOE.

The NJPIEP project is a collaborative initiative between the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSE) and the Montclair State University Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health (CAECMH). NJPIEP supports the inclusion of preschool children with disabilities through leadership development, targeted technical assistance to enhance inclusive practices in early childhood and preschool environments, on and off-site coaching, and systemic change-facilitation.

## **Date for Second Annual Future Vikings Day**

We will hold the second Annual Future Viking Day for current 5th-grade students on May 29, 2024, 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 2024-2025 school year.

## **Parent Virtual Workshops**

I encourage you to attend one or more of our Virtual Parent Workshops this school year. Please refer to the Parent Virtual Workshop Schedule for details. [Parent Virtual Workshop Schedule](#).

## **Superintendent Forums**

In addition to the Virtual Parent Workshops, I host in-person Superintendent's Forums at the Administration Building, starting at 6:30 p.m. The remaining forum dates for this year are as follows:

- Monday, January 22, 2024
- Wednesday, March 27, 2024
- Thursday, May 16, 2024

These forums provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to learn about upcoming district projects, ask questions, and share suggestions.

I look forward to our ongoing partnership as we collaborate in pursuit of our shared mission to deliver quality education to the students of Voorhees. Together, we play a pivotal role in establishing the academic foundation that equips our students to be prepared for both college and career paths.

Dr. Neely Hackett

[DEI Committee Calendar](#)

[Substitute Teachers Needed - ESS Flyer](#)

## **Superintendent's Forums for the 2023-2024 School Year**

### **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**

**Tuesday, January 2nd** - Students return to school. Welcome back from Winter Break!

**Wednesday, January 3rd** - Board of Education Meeting at 7pm - Administration Building

**Friday, January 12th** - District Dress Down Day to celebrate COLLABORATION - TWIN DAY

**Monday, January 15th** - School Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Wednesday, January 17th** - Family Night

**Monday, January 22nd** - Superintendent's Forum at 6:30pm - Administration Building

**Wednesday, January 31st** - End of 2nd marking period - Board of Education Meeting at 7pm

## 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!**



### Voorhees Township Public School - Administration Building

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**Sue Donnelly**

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