



Voorhees Township Schools

March Newsletter

A Message from Dr. Hackett

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the seventh month of the 2023-2024 school year, we reflect on our achievements thus far and enact strategies to capitalize on our opportunities for success.

Our dedicated staff persistently strives to deliver a high-quality education that emphasizes rigor, real-life relevance, and engagement for all students.

Our steadfast commitment remains aligned with our district theme, "Building Pathways to Success: Empowering Students through Positive Connections," underscoring the vital link between positive relationships and achieving favorable outcomes.

Revised District Calendar 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 district calendar has been revised to include October 2, 2024, as an early dismissal day.

Food Advisory Committee Meetings

Our second Food Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on March 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/95031641320>

During the meeting, we will discuss important matters related to the nutritional well-being of our students. Mrs. Helen Haley, Business Administrator, and Tina Artusa, Director of Food Services for Nutriserve will host the virtual meeting. Your input is invaluable to us, as we strive to create a positive and healthy dining environment for all students. Your participation in this meeting will contribute to the ongoing improvement of our district's food services program.

If you have any specific topics or questions you would like addressed during the meeting, please feel free to email them to Helen Haley, Business Administrator at haley@voorhees.k12.nj.us by March 13, 2024.

Our first meeting was highly successful, as we have implemented many of the suggestions provided during the meeting.

Static Communication Boards

Through a collaborative effort between our district and the Voorhees Township Police Department, static communication boards to assist our non-verbal students have been installed at every township playground. To mark this collaborative achievement, Dr. Alegria, Director of Special Education, and Ms. Ross, Supervisor of Special Education visited Rabinowitz Field on January 31, 2024, with some of our special education students and staff to officially unveil the new static communication board.

Listen and Learn Meetings with Elementary Student Council President and Vice President

I will be conducting a Listen and Learn meeting with the President and Vice President of our elementary student councils on March 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is for the president and vice president to share suggestions and any requests on behalf of the students in their respective schools. Following the meeting, I will provide a written response containing action steps related to the topics discussed.

Curriculum News

On Friday, February 16th, the staff participated in their in-service program. The teachers from kindergarten to second grade underwent training for the Wonders Literacy Program, which has been utilized by students in these grades since September. The training covered various components of the program, including phonics, unit check-in assessments, and the digital platform utilized daily.

For teachers in grades 3-5, it was their first exposure to the Wonders program. Their training encompassed familiarization with teacher resources, introduction to assessments, and understanding of the student components. This ensured preparedness for implementing the program at these grade levels in September.

Middle school teachers engaged in collaborative sessions with Mrs. Inge, the assistant principal overseeing mathematics, and Mrs. Biederman, the assistant principal overseeing English Language Arts. Discussions revolved around reviewing the iReady Diagnostic #2 results, familiarizing with new standards slated for implementation by September, and reviewing benchmark assessments. Additionally, middle school social studies teachers received training on the digital platform of their new textbook series.

Guidance counselors convened with their supervisor to preview Character Strong, a comprehensive social-emotional program offering resources for classroom lessons and small groups across grades K-8.

We extend our sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our staff.

A Message from Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D., U.S Secretary of Education

Districts have been asked to share a message from Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D., U.S. Secretary of Education, on the importance of safe firearms storage.

[Firearms Storage Message](#)

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](#).

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:

- Tuesday, March 26, 2024 (date changed from 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](#)

Upcoming Important Dates

March 13 - Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM (Administration Building)

March 18 - Parent Virtual Workshop at 7:00 PM

March 20 - Family Night

March 21 - District Spirit Day - Down Syndrome Awareness: Wear Mismatched Socks

March 26 - Superintendent's Forum at 6:30 PM

March 28 - Early Dismissal

March 29 - April 5 - School Closed (*Spring Break!*)

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

Email: donnelly@voorhees.k12.nj.us

Website: <https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/>

Location: [329 Route 73 North, Voorhees Township, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: [\(856\)751-8446](tel:(856)751-8446)

Facebook: facebook.com/VoorheesTwpPublicSchools



Sue Donnelly

Sue is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters