

# Voorhees Township Schools

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. HACKETT

*Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year. C. Sugg.*

Our theme for this school year, "Building Pathways to Success: Empowering Students through Positive Connections," underscores the significance of establishing strong relationships to offer our students the love, support, and encouragement they need to thrive at their individual academic capacity. This theme highlights the critical link between positive relationships and achieving successful outcomes.

The 2023-2024 school year has commenced on a remarkable note. Our new initiatives, including elementary Spanish instruction led by a certified teacher (grades 3-5), advanced mathematics at the elementary level (grades 4 and 5), a new English language arts curriculum program (grades K-2), and the addition of instructional coaches, are proving advantageous for our students.

Moreover, we are continuing initiatives from the previous school year, such as our focus on professional development to promote differentiated instruction, exposing students to a rigorous academic program with authentic learning experiences. We are also enhancing our special education program, with inclusion as its foundational principle in all activities and programs. Additionally, we are committed to continuously upgrading our physical infrastructure to ensure a safe and technologically advanced learning environment.

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

Our first workshop on September 21, 2023, focused on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) District Procedures, and it was truly exciting to witness the active participation of our parents.

In our collective pursuit of transparency in our operations, we are now making all non-confidential attachments accessible to the public when the Board of Education monthly meeting agenda is released. The agenda is now available to the public earlier. Specifically, it will be accessible at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday mornings for Wednesday meetings and 12:01 a.m. on Friday mornings for Monday meetings. This extended lead time for the community to review the agenda will further promote collaborative dialogue.

I eagerly anticipate working closely with you as we join forces in our shared mission of providing quality education to the students of Voorhees. Together, we will forge a critical partnership essential for equipping our students with the academic foundation to become lifelong learners, leaders, and change agents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. I eagerly await our continued partnership.

Dr. Neely Hackett

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

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 2nd through 6th** : Week Of Respect
- **October 9th**: Schools Closed, Columbus Day / Indigenous People's Day
- **October 12th**: Staff In-Service [Early Dismissal](#)  
*CER is open until 5:30pm.*
- **October 13th** - District Spirit Day: Wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

- **October 16th** - Board of Education Meeting at 7pm - Administration Building
- **October 18th:** Family Night!
- **October 24th** - Superintendent's Forum at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building
- **October 25th:** Parent Virtual Workshop - District Initiatives, 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!

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## VOORHEES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOL – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

 Facebook

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