

Voorhees Township Schools

September 2024 Newsletter

A Message From Dr. Hackett

September 1, 2024

Dear Voorhees Community,

I hope you had a wonderful summer. I'm delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we embark on the 2024-2025 school year, a year filled with boundless opportunities and exciting possibilities.

The theme for the 2024-2025 school year is **Building Pathways to Success: Empowering Students through Positive Connections**. This theme emphasizes the crucial link between positive relationships and successful outcomes.

Throughout the summer, we have diligently prepared for the upcoming school year, completing several important tasks:

- We revised the English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum for grades K through 8 to incorporate the updated 2023 state standards. Although the state recently extended the deadline for implementing the new mathematics standards to September 2025, we will implement them this year.
- We initiated curriculum mapping for the middle school Spanish program to align with our comprehensive elementary program, with implementation scheduled for the 2025-2026 school year.
- We prepared for the implementation of the Reading Wonders Language Arts Literacy Program and its intervention program Wonderworks for grades 3-5 this year, following its introduction in grades K to 2 last year.
- We created a Financial Literacy course at the middle school. This course will be introduced this school year as a crucial component of the middle school curriculum, aimed at providing students with a thorough understanding of personal financial management. The course aligns with the NJSL Standard 9.1 for Personal Financial Literacy, ensuring that students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed financial decisions. For this school year, half of the student population will participate in the Financial Literacy course during one of the four marking periods. By the end of the four marking periods, half of the students will have completed the course. Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, our goal is for all students to complete the course before graduating from middle school. The new

Financial Literacy course will offer a more targeted and rigorous exploration of financial literacy.

- We established a district Code of Conduct Committee this summer, including staff members from all schools and district administrators. The committee focused on revising the Chart of Student Discipline in Policy 5600 to ensure consistency in how consequences are issued across grade levels K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, as well as among students. I will be submitting the recommended changes to the Policy Committee this month. The next step for the committee is to develop school-wide behavior incentives and proactive measures to support students.
- Our district will be piloting a W.I.N. period for second grade across all elementary schools. W.I.N., which stands for "What I Need," is a designated time when teachers will personalize instruction to meet each child's unique needs. This period will focus on reinforcement, intervention, and/or enrichment, with instruction being intentional and meaningful for every student.

We are genuinely excited about the upcoming school year and the endless possibilities that await our students. We remain deeply grateful to our parents and community stakeholders for their unwavering partnership. Together, we will continue to work collaboratively to provide our students with every opportunity for success.

I look forward to greeting your children on September 5, 2024.

Warm regards,
Dr. Neely Hackett

Family Nights

A tradition in Voorhees was started by the former Acting Superintendent, Mr. Redfearn, to recognize the third Wednesday of each month as "Family Night." Family Night is a time free of homework, assignments, projects, activities, practices, and games. It's an evening for students to relax and spend time with their families.

Superintendent Forums for the 2024-2025 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 29, 2024
- Thursday, January 30, 2025
- Tuesday, March 18, 2025
- Monday, May 19, 2025

Back to School Night Information

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT DATES

September 17th - Kresson and Osage Elementary Schools

September 19th - Voorhees Middle School (6th Grade Only)

September 24th - E.T. Hamilton and Signal Hill Elementary Schools

September 26th - Voorhees Middle School (7th and 8th Grade Only)

Please see school websites/announcements for specific times

PRESCHOOL PROVIDER SITES

September 16th - Today's Learning Center and Fervent Beginnings

Important Upcoming Dates

September 3 and 4 - Teacher's In-service, Staff Only

September 5 - First Day for Students (Full Day)

September 18 - Family Night

September 25 - Board of Education Meeting

2023-2024 District Annual Report

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7355/Annual%20Report%202023%202024%20.pdf>.

2024-2025 District Emergency Virtual Learning Plan

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/1/2024-25%20Voorhees%20Township%20School%20District%20Virtual%20Learning%20Plan.pdf>

Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center Updates

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/8957>

District Spirit Theme Days

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/1/District%20Spirit%20Day%202024%202025.pdf>

Parent Virtual Workshops

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/ModuleInstance/5783/Parent%20Workshops%202024%202025.pdf>

Download the VTSD Mobile App

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/7365>

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



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Sue Donnelly

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