

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Jillian G. Torrento, Ed.D. **Superintendent of Schools** Robert Brown Interim Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

October 2024

Dear Members of the Hasbrouck Heights School Community,

As we welcome October and feel the crisp autumn air, I am excited to share that the 2024-2025 school year is off to a fantastic start. Over the past two months, we've had successful back-to-school nights at each school, celebrated senior recognition through the Athletic Department, and hosted a college financial aid evening organized by our Guidance Department. Our students have embraced events like Red Ribbon Week, and all have engaged fully in this new school year, filled with fresh opportunities.

This year, the administration plans to continue its commitment to fostering frequent communication with parents and the broader school community. As we celebrate the many achievements of our students and exciting initiatives within the Hasbrouck Heights School District, I encourage you to join us from anywhere via your devices! Please follow each school and department on social media and regularly check our website for updates: hhschools.org. Later this school year, we will be launching a new, enhanced website, which will feature drone footage and a montage of updated photos that beautifully capture our facilities and school spirit.

In addition to our focus on communication, we are strengthening the safety and security of our school community. In partnership with the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department (HHPD), the Chief of Police, the Town Administrator, and the Mayor and Council, we are enhancing our infrastructure, refining security procedures, and fostering stronger collaboration. This partnership will support district-wide emergency preparedness, including evacuation drills, lockdowns, shelter-in-place protocols, and medical response procedures, ensuring that both students and staff are well-prepared in the event of an emergency.

We are also making great strides in expanding our academic programs and enhancing instructional opportunities at all grade levels. At the elementary schools, we are focusing on improving instructional strategies in both English Language Arts and mathematics, with the implementation of a district-wide math series, enVision. We are also developing new programs to support our multilingual learners and strengthening our special education offerings. The middle school has introduced several new after-school clubs to engage students' diverse interests, build friendships, and foster leadership skills. At the high school, we are developing innovative, new courses, supporting SAT preparation with Saturday sessions, and expanding our dual enrollment program, allowing students to earn college credits before they graduate. The administration and the Board of Education remain fully committed to providing the best learning environment for all students.

Please take note of the below important district events during the upcoming months, including a new date for "Talks with Torrento", an opportunity for me to continue to introduce myself to community members. Additionally, please join us for the many events and opportunities the district is offering over the course of the next few months:

October 23, 2024: SEPAG Parent Meeting, High School Media Center, 6:00 p.m.

October 24, 2024: Middle School National Honor Society (BETA) Induction, HS Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

October 29, 2024: Meet the Superintendent, High School Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

November 4, 2024: Ramapo College High School Dual Enrollment, HS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

November 5, 2024: NO SCHOOL, Election Day:

November 7 and 8, 2024: NO SCHOOL, NJEA Teachers Convention

November 13, 2024: Junior Night, Eleventh Grade Students and Parents, HS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

November 27, 2024: *Single Session* (Half Day Schedule)

November 28 and 29, 2024: NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire school community for the warm welcome I've received in Hasbrouck Heights. It has been a true pleasure getting to know our dedicated staff, families, local leaders, and—most of all—our wonderful students. There is something truly special about Hasbrouck Heights, and I am honored to serve this community. Remember, Aviators Fly Higher Together!

Sincerely,

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Dr. Jillian Torrento, Superintendent of Schools

Aviators Fly Higher Together!