

A message from Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools.



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending April 7, 2017

# Rest, Renewal and Contemplating Change

**We're taking the long view and considering changes to the CHPS educational landscape. We hope you'll join the conversation.**

Welcome to the beginning of Spring Break! Whether you have travel plans or will be staying at home, I hope the weeklong break from April 10-14 serves as a time of relaxation and rejuvenation for you and your family. I am a firm believer that taking breaks from work and school helps give a renewed perspective. This time of year, there are many parallels between the renewal and growth we see as the flowers and trees are in bloom again, and the renewal and growth of our goals for the remainder of the school year.

As the physical landscape around us changes, grows and becomes more colorful this season, we are contemplating some changes to our educational landscape in the coming years. Our long-range strategic plan, called "Cherry Hill Public Schools 2020: A clear vision for the future", included a survey and a series of three meetings open to all community members in the fall of 2016. The results of the feedback from the community showed that the one common request among all stakeholder groups – parents, staff, Cherry Hill community members, administrators and Board of Education members – was to implement full day kindergarten across the District.

TAn analysis of our buildings revealed we do not have the space to implement full day kindergarten in all of our schools. To accommodate a full day program, we are looking into turning two of our elementary buildings into kindergarten centers. The remaining 10 elementary schools would serve grades 1-5. This idea is still in the early stages of discussion. Many factors will be taken into careful consideration. The earliest we would open the kindergarten centers would be the fall of 2019.

## Cherry Hill High School West Spring Musical

*Sister Act*

April 7 @ 7 pm

April 8 @ 2 pm & 7 pm

[Tickets available online.](#)

## SCHOOLS CLOSED

Spring Break

April 10-14

## INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP DAY

April 17

## John A. Carusi Middle School Spring Musical

*Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*

April 21 @ 7 pm

April 22 @ 2 pm & 7pm

## SAVE THE DATES:

**Earth Festival:** April 29, 10 am-2 pm @ Croft Farm

details at

<http://www.sustainablecherryhill.org/>

## Dancing with the Cherry Hill

**Stars:** April 30, 7 pm @ Cherry Hill High School West

[Tickets available online.](#)

Additionally, we are considering restructuring our middle schools, turning Rosa Middle School into a 6th grade center and keeping Carusi and Beck Middle Schools as sending schools for 7th and 8th grade. Sixth grade is a pivotal transitional year in terms of physical, emotional/social and academic development. We are looking into the benefits of shepherding our 6th grade students through this transition in an environment that brings them all together and ensures interaction that would help bridge the East/West divide in Cherry Hill. The opening of a 6th grade center, if we were to decide to implement it, would not take place before 2018.

School districts in New Jersey and beyond have had success with both kindergarten and 6th grade centers. We will continue to research how such districts have handled their own reconfigurations, what the challenges and benefits have been, and the benefits and challenges we would face in a reconfiguration of our own.

Public discussion will continue to take place throughout the 2017-2018 school year regarding school configuration and other items under consideration in the CHPS 2020 project. I encourage you to come out to the Board of Education meetings, including committee meetings, to join the conversation. Please do not rely on social media chatter for information – we welcome all questions through our “Quick Question” portal on the District web site. And be sure to stay informed by following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you haven’t already, download our free District App from Google Play or the App Store. And please tune in to my next [live streaming “Online Lunch”](#) on April 27 at noon.

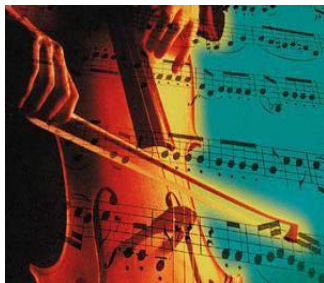
I’ll be starting my Spring Break by taking in the final performances of *Sister Act* at Cherry Hill High School West. If you haven’t seen this great musical comedy yet, be sure to catch a show tonight or tomorrow night at 7 pm, or tomorrow afternoon at 2 pm.

Enjoy your time to rest and re-energize! Get up and see the sunrise, take a walk, visit the library, visit a park, take some time for yourself. Talk to a neighbor, visit a new business in town, volunteer, make a donation, be part of the positive change and positive growth that exists in our community. If we all choose to make a positive difference, every day, think of the community we will have for our children. I look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday, April 17 – our snow make-up day from the school closure on March 14.

Regards,

Joseph N. Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



## Cherry Hill High School East Wins Rowan String Festival Competition

The Cherry Hill High School East String Ensemble was chosen out of nine highly competitive schools – with Washington Township, Cherokee and Bordentown High Schools among the nine groups participating – for their excellent work.

As the winner of the 2017 Rowan String Festival, the Cherry Hill East String Ensemble is invited to perform at the [Rowan University Wind Ensemble Concert](#) on Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 in Pfleeger Hall. The ensemble will perform for five to 10 minutes.

Also featured during this concert will be the world premiere of David Osbon's Concerto for Violin, Wind Ensemble and Electronics. Dr. Osbon, who is currently Head of Graduate Studies at the London College of Music, will attend the concert. This concert is also a farewell concert to John Pastin, who is retiring as Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Rowan



## Middle and Elementary Schools' PARCC Assessments Begin April 19

The CHPS Assessment Office extends a friendly reminder going into Spring Break that [Middle and elementary school PARCC assessments will begin on April 19.](#)

The Assessment Office offers a [Learning Heroes Guide, "Get Ready for the Test" for parents in anticipation of the upcoming PARCC assessments.](#) This one-page guide was developed by Scholastic in partnership with the National PTA.

Important new graduation requirements for the class of 2021 pertain to 8th grade students currently enrolled in as Algebra I PARCC-eligible course. [Please click here for details on requirements for 8th grade Algebra I students.](#)

AS a reminder, the State Board of Education has approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2017 through



## Cherry Hill East Students Earn Awards and Praise at Delaware Valley Science Fair

On April 5, 18 students from Cherry Hill East and one student from Cherry Hill West attended the Delaware Valley Science Fair in Oaks, PA. Ten students won awards at the fair.

Henry Disston, the director of the fair, had this to say about two East students, Saurabh Shah and Jake Brooks: "One thing of note is the team of Jake Brooks and Saurabh Shah. They will be going to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair [in Los Angeles the week of May 13], where they will be participating with about 1,700 other high school students from around the world. This is the finals for science fairs!"

Jake and Saurabh designed and built a device that fits into a shoe and detects

University.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for seniors/non-Rowan students/alumni/military. Rowan students, faculty and staff are admitted for free with a valid ID, based on availability. Call the box office for more information at 856-256-4545 or purchase tickets online at [rowan.tix.com](http://rowan.tix.com)

2021, and beyond. [Click here for details on these new regulations, which include the fact that the Class of 2020 is required to sit for the PARCC assessment in order to graduate.](#)

[A parents' guide to accessibility for English Learners taking the PARCC assessment is available by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, improvements have been made to this year's PARCC assessment. [Click here to see a chart of the improvements.](#)

Parents concerned about PARCC accessibility are encouraged to refer to the brochure, [Expanding Access: Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in PARCC Assessments—A Parent's Guide.](#)

The Cherry Hill Public Schools Assessment Office also offers [an FAQ document to answer common questions about the PARCC assessment process.](#) All parents are encouraged to read this FAQ.

when the wearer has fallen; it also sends a text message to alert someone that the person has fallen. All of the CHPS students who attended the science fair are excited about Jake and Saurabh's accomplishment. Congratulations to all!

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