

A message from the Superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public Schools.



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending October 11, 2019

Technology

Board of Education Action Meeting

October 15 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo

Update

District email and most of our other systems are now functioning as work continues.

I would like to thank everyone in our community for their patience as we have worked on restoring our technology based systems. As you are aware, our email was down for three school days and was back up and running on Thursday, October 10. It's important for everyone to understand that the investigation into both the source of the incident and the full scope of the event is ongoing. This means I am limited – under the direction of investigators – in what I can share publicly at this time. Here is what I can tell you:

We began experiencing outages early on Friday, October 4, 2019. We immediately began an investigation with the assistance of industry leading cyber forensic experts and took steps to respond to the issue, including immediately taking affected systems offline. The CHPS Technology Team worked diligently over 7 days, including the weekend of October 5th and 6th, and the holiday on October 9th, to restore the systems to functionality and ensure stability across our platforms and throughout the infrastructure of the network. This dedicated team, as salaried employees, did not receive overtime pay for their work. We are working cautiously and continue to monitor all systems to ensure they remain viable and functional.

Our investigation and recovery efforts are ongoing, and we will continue focused work to determine the nature and scope of this incident, and restore our systems to full, secure functionality. I am pleased to report that most of our systems are back online and have been available for use as of Thursday, October 10.

We employ layers of protection and backup systems for our network, but there is a human element involved in technology. We have reiterated to staff the importance of looking out for suspicious/phishing emails and protecting usernames/passwords. We also have communicated with staff the measures they are required to take as we move forward with the recovery and stabilization of all systems.

Prior to the outage, we were planning for a transition over to Office 365 for email. During our recovery efforts, we began and accelerated that transition. In the coming weeks a full change over to the new platform will occur.

Terrace

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

November 4 @ 5 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

November 4 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

November 4 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

November 4 @ 8 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

SCHOOLS CLOSED

November 7 & 8

Board of Education Work Session

November 12 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

The new platform will move our email to the Cloud. This means employees will have bigger email boxes with increased security and authentication.

Once our systems are stable, we will transition our entire environment to Two Factor Authentication (2FA). 2FA is a second layer of security to protect an account or system. 2FA increases the safety of online accounts by requiring two types of information from the user, such as a password along with a PIN that changes or confirmation from another device, before the user can log in. Users will be asked to provide 2FA to access all systems.

I would like to thank the 15 members of our technology team for their diligent, around-the-clock work to restore our email and multiple other systems within 3 working days. I would also like to thank our staff and administrators for continuing their excellent work in seamlessly providing robust classroom and extracurricular experiences for all of our students during the technology outages.

I was thrilled during this past week to visit so many classrooms and to see learning thriving in our schools. The truest part of the educational experience can be found in all of our classrooms, in the relationships that exist between our staff and students and in the opportunities students have to demonstrate their learning. Inquisitive minds, joyful noise, and physical activities are brought together as children learn in an environment that is nurturing, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate. Even when adults are experiencing challenges in the world around them, children always deserve and get our best efforts.

Our teachers and our students really are the greatest! They truly represent Cherry Hill.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

"Kindness and politeness are not overrated at all. They're underused." – Tommy Lee Jones



Cherry Hill East Takes First Place in Theater Competition

Congratulations to the Studio II students from Cherry Hill High School East who took first place in this year's Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire Theater competition.

The group, pictured above, performed Act 4.1 of Macbeth.

Alicia Cosenza ('20) and Seth Horenstein ('21) were awarded special merit by the "Queen" for their choreography work on the scene, which was performed by more than 24 Studio II students and was directed by Pete Gambino.



BOE Candidate Bios and Candidates Forum Video Available Online

[Biographies of the 10 candidates running for the four open seats on the Cherry Hill Board of Education are now available online.](#) The biographies listed in ballot order and are published as submitted by the candidates, unedited.

The candidates participated in a Candidates Forum, sponsored by the Cherry Hill Zone PTA, on October 10. Moderated by the League of Women Voters, the forum offered an opportunity for community members to ask questions of the candidates.

A recording of the forum is available on the [District YouTube channel.](#)



Free and Reduced Price Lunch Applications Available; Families Already Receiving Benefits Must Reapply by October 15

Applications for the 2019-2020 Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program are available at www.payschoolscentral.com

PaySchools Central is a secure payment system that simplifies school payments in an easy-to-use online portal. It enable parents to fund lunch accounts and pay required and optional fees quickly and easily. [More information about PaySchools Central is available online.](#) Also available is [a step-by-step guide to signing up for PaySchools Central.](#) Note that an application must be submitted each year.

Families already receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunch benefits must reapply by October 15. If an application is not submitted by October 15th and your child currently receives benefits, your child's status will change to full pay breakfast and lunch.