

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending December 13, 2019

STEM for All

STEM education is vital to the Cherry Hill Public Schools community. WE are carrying out our commitment to STEM at every grade level, beginning in kindergarten!

You no doubt have heard of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and its importance in providing a strong academic foundation for all students. Interestingly, the word “stem” in the English language refers to the main part of a plant that supports its other parts, such as leaves or fruit, and also is the term for the part of the brain that controls the flow of messages between the brain and the rest of the body. So no matter the context – as an acronym, or as a word – STEM/stem is foundational. I take great joy in seeing the evidence of our district’s commitment to STEM every time I visit our schools. STEM in action at every grade level is thrilling to witness! From outdoor weather observations and predictions in kindergarten to building and attempting to stop a “landslide” made from household items in second grade, as pictured above, our youngest students embrace the fun of STEM learning. And just yesterday, middle schoolers at Carusi discussed how to design a cup to keep hot chocolate warm on a cold day. At the high school level, physics students will, in a couple of months, embark on building “spaghetti bridges” using only dry spaghetti and glue – an engineering challenge to be sure!

I had the great pleasure today of visiting the robotics room at Cherry Hill High School East to hear about the latest accomplishments of the Vex Robotics Club – now composed of approximately 100 students with a passion for STEM! Please watch the latest “[Minute with Dr. Meloche](#)” to learn more about my visit and the program. Robotics clubs also are growing at West and at our middle schools, and we are excited for what the future holds for these student competitors! East is now looking for an adviser for the club for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact East Principal Dr. Dennis Perry at dperry@chclc.org if you are interested

Examples of STEM learning are posted regularly on CHPS social media, as are a multitude of examples of

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Board of Education Action Meeting](#)

December 17 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Agenda available online](#)

[SCHOOLS CLOSED](#)

December 23-January 1
PLEASE NOTE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019 IS A FULL DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF

[Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting](#)

January 6 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting](#)

January 6 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Business & Facilities Committee Meeting](#)

January 7 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Strategic Planning Committee Meeting](#)

January 7 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

other learning opportunities inside and outside our classrooms! Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)! If you haven't already, please download our free District app from the App Store or Google Play – then customize it to feed your school's information, in addition to District information, directly to you. Have a question for us that's also of interest to the larger community? Submit it via our [Quick Question](#) portal for a publicly posted answer!

We are now one week away from Winter Break! Please remember, Friday, December 20 is a full day of school for all students and staff! And while schedules may seem to become busier as the holidays approach, I hope you are able to take the time to enjoy the events all around the community. East's production of the comedy *Shakespeare in Hollywood* runs tonight at Cherry Hill High School West (due to construction at East) at 7:30 pm, and again on Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. I will be in attendance at the show this evening and hope to see you there!

Please remember to take in the beauty around us this holiday season – last night's full moon was spectacular! Taking the time to appreciate the beauty in our surroundings is one of the best gifts we can give ourselves. And of course, being kind is one of the best gifts we can give others.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joseph Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

"Be a rainbow in someone's day."



Black
History Month Essay,
Poster, Video Contest



MLK Commission
Extends Essay Contest
Deadline for Students



Update on District
Committees and
Strategic Planning

Now Accepting Entries

The Rev. Ivan George Essay/Poster/Video Contest for Black History Month 2020 is now accepting entries from all Cherry Hill Public School students K-12. This year's topic is "African Americans in the Armed Forces and NASA." Entry deadline is February 1, 2020.

Three monetary prizes will be awarded at each grade level: K-1st; 2nd-3rd; 4th-5th; 6th-7th; 8th-9th; 10th-11th; and 12th.

[Details and official rules are available online.](#) More information also is available from your school guidance counselor and on the [Cherry Hill Library web site.](#)

This year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative, the New Jersey MLK Commission, will focus on the women leaders of the struggle for equality and civil rights.

Students: You are invited to join this movement by creating an essay that will tell the story of Women Who Led, and how they can inspire you and all of us! Choose one of the [10 great leaders listed online](#) and write an essay about what you find compelling about your choice. The Commission seeks essays from middle and high school students, as well as youth engaged in various programs.

- The deadline has been extended: Applications must be submitted online by **December 18, 2019.**
- Notification of the essay honorees (a total of 10) will be sent by January 6, 2020.

Those selected will receive:

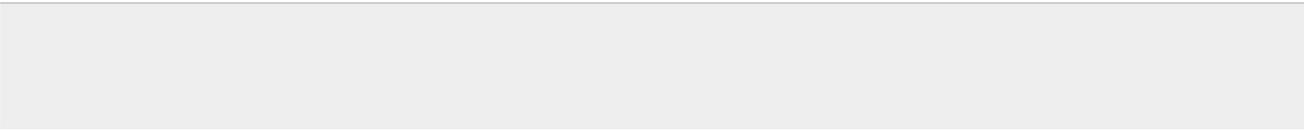
- A medal of Recognition;
- A \$100 gift card;
- Essay will be posted on our website;
- Honorees will be asked to read their essay at the MLK Commemorative on January 19, 2020, at the State Museum Auditorium in Trenton, NJ.

If you have questions, please contact Rowena at (609) 633-9627 or Rowena.madden@sos.nj.gov

The Cherry Hill Public Schools continues its focus on excellence and continued improvement. To that end, we have invited the community into our research and planning process to address our most pressing needs.

This school year, we are carrying out the [recommendations of the District Ad Hoc Committee.](#) These recommendations include forming and charging a [Safety and Security Committee](#) and an [Alternative Funding Committee](#), as well as conducting a series of forums and surveys, to help steer the Administration and Board of Education as we formulate a new Bond Referendum. The surveys will be emailed to the CHPS community by Monday afternoon, December 16, and will be distributed to the larger community the week of the 16th via this e-newsletter, the Mayor's Weekly Briefing email, social media, and on paper at the Cherry Hill Public Library and the Malberg Administration Building.

We encourage you to visit the [district website](#) and follow us on social media to stay informed about the progress of this important work.



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