

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending October 14, 2016

The Importance of Being Informed

With Election Day less than four weeks away and changes afoot with PARCC testing requirements, knowledge is a more valuable tool than ever.

In the Cherry Hill Public Schools, we champion curiosity as a crucial part of success in learning. We want our students to be lifelong learners, to carry their curiosity well into adulthood and to continually seek a better understanding of the world around them. With this, we hope, naturally comes a desire to contribute to society in a meaningful way.

One significant way for adults to contribute to their community and their country is to vote on November 8. Although many would agree this election season has been tumultuous, it has presented us as educators and as parents with many “teachable moments.” Beyond the presidential election on November 8 are local elections – not the least of which is the race for three open seats on the Cherry Hill Board of Education. [Be sure to register to vote by the October 18 registration deadline if you haven't already.](#) This year, seven candidates are vying for three open seats. I encourage you to read the [bios submitted by each of the candidates](#) and posted on our District web site. Mark your calendars, too, for the BOE Candidates' Forum on October 19 at Rosa Middle School, detailed in the story below at left. The forum is your chance to submit questions for the candidates to answer. [If you can't make it to the event, you may watch it on your computer or other personal electronic device, as it will be streamed live via the District web site.](#)

I also would like to remind you about important changes taking place with regard to PARCC testing. Beginning with the class of 2020 (our current 9th graders) and beyond, students will be required to sit for the assessment – **there will not be an option to refuse the test.** A full explanation of this new state mandate can be found below, in the center article titled, “New

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Education Action Meeting

October 18 @ 7 pm
Malberg Board Room, 45
Ranoldo Terrace

Deadline for Voter Registration

October 18
Details available from the
NJ Division of Elections at
<http://www.njelections.org/>

BOE Candidates' Forum

October 19 @ 7 pm
Rosa International Middle
School APR
485 Browning Lane

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

October 31 @ 6 pm
Malberg Board Room, 45
Ranoldo Terrace

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

October 31 @ 7 pm
Malberg Board Room, 45
Ranoldo Terrace

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

November 1 @ 6 pm
Malberg Board Room, 45
Ranoldo Terrace

State PARCC Assessment Requirements Will Eliminate Testing Refusal.”

One last way I encourage you to be informed and involved is regarding the future of the Cherry Hill School District. To that end, I invite you to take part in our strategic planning work, “Cherry Hill Schools 2020: A Clear Vision for the Future.” Please be sure to read about [the Board’s goals](#) and to submit your input regarding what you would envision for the future of CHPS on [the “live” document on the web site](#), starting on page 6. Additionally, we will hold Community Conversation meetings beginning November 3 to answer questions and listen to your ideas as well. Please, by all means, give us your suggestions and ideas!

Be sure to enjoy the predicted beautiful weather and the emerging fall foliage this weekend. Be involved in our schools. Most of all, be kind.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

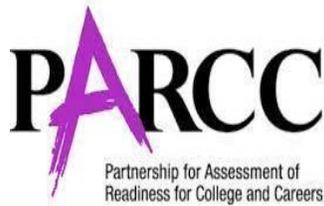
P.S. Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the very latest happenings around the District. Our [District Events Calendar](#) on the District web site is a great resource for updates about upcoming events. You'll find the 2016-2017 School Year "Overview" Calendar [here](#). The "Overview" [calendars for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 are available as well](#). For events and activities in the Cherry Hill Community, check out our [Community Bulletin Board](#) on our [web site](#). And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

November 1 @ 7 pm
Malberg Board Room, 45
Ranoldo Terrace

Election Day

November 8



BOE Candidates' Forum Set for October 19; Bios Available on District Web Site

Community members are encouraged to bring their questions for the seven Board of Education candidates to the Cherry Hill Zone PTA's Board of Education Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, October 19 at Rosa International Middle School. Doors will open at 7 pm and attendees may submit their questions in writing at that time.

Community members unable to attend the forum may [watch it streamed live on the District web site.](#)

Bios of the seven candidates, running for three open seats, are [posted on the District web site.](#) Information for the bios was submitted by the candidates and is listed in ballot order.

The candidates, in ballot order, are: Ruth Schultz, Ian Morris, Edward Wang, Steven C. Robbins, Fredrick Dande, Joseph Gerace and Jane Scarpellino.

New State PARCC Assessment Requirements Will Eliminate Testing Refusal

Under new state guidelines, students in the class of 2020 (current 9th graders) and beyond no longer will be able to refuse to take the annual PARCC State Assessments.

According to New Jersey Department of Education guidelines, current 9th grade students must take the PARCC English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 9 test this year. They also will be required to take their grade level PARCC ELA test in 10th and in 11th grade. If a passing score is not met on any one of these three tests, the student may take one of the state approved alternate tests to fulfill their graduation requirement. [A list of the accepted alternate tests may be found on the "PARCC Results 2016" presentation posted on the District web site.](#)

Likewise, current 9th grade students must take PARCC Algebra I, PARCC Geometry and PARCC Algebra II at their appropriate grade level. If a passing score is not met on any one of these three tests, the student may take one of the state approved alternate tests to fulfill their graduation requirement. [A list of the](#)

Community Service Hours Sign-up Available at Harvest Festival

The Cherry Hill Food Pantry is looking for student volunteers and will sign for community service hours for those students. Student volunteers are encouraged to visit the Food Pantry tent at the Harvest Festival this Sunday, October 16 at Croft Farm, where they may sign up to volunteer with the organization.

The Harvest Festival, featuring Fire & Life Safety Day, will take place from noon-4 pm. Presented jointly by Cherry Hill Township, Cherry Hill Police Department and Cherry Hill Fire Department, the festival offers food, entertainment and educational presentations for all ages.

[accepted alternate tests may be found on the "PARCC Results 2016" presentation posted on the District web site.](#)

Students in the class of 2021 and beyond (grades 8 and younger) are required to take the PARCC ELA in grade 9, grade 10 and grade 11. If a passing score is not met on the PARCC ELA grade 10, no alternate test will be accepted. The student without a passing score in grade 10 must instead meet the criteria of the NJ Department of Education Portfolio Appeal.

Likewise, class of 2021 students and beyond must take PARCC Algebra I, PARCC Geometry and PARCC Algebra II at their appropriate grade level. If a passing score is not met on PARCC Algebra I, the student must instead meet the criteria of the NJ Department of Education Portfolio Appeal.

[Charts explaining these new requirements are available on the "PARCC Results 2016" presentation posted on the District web site.](#)



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