

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending May 18, 2018

Safety & Security, Revisited

Today's horrific attack on a Texas school has left us all shaken, once again. We continue to move forward with safety improvements, and we ask for your continued help strengthen the "human" piece of safety and security.

I write this letter today with a heavy heart. More children were lost this morning to a senseless act of gun violence in Texas, just three months and four days after the Parkland, Florida tragedy. This is a horror for all of us. The loss of children is my worst nightmare. All of us in the Cherry Hill Public Schools – the community members, the members of the Board of Education, and the district staff and administration – value the safety of our students above all else. We are getting ready to watch our children transition to their next phase, whether that means moving up a grade, moving on to middle or high school, or "leaving the nest" for college or career. We want our children to take these next steps with a sense of hope, a sense that their futures are bright, with a multitude of opportunities to make the world a better place.

I would like to reiterate the steps taken in early March to enhance our security, as well as our mental health resources and our plans for continued security improvements:

- There is an increased Cherry Hill Police presence in our schools. Each of our high schools now has on duty four armed Campus Police, employed full-time by the school district. Additionally, a Cherry Hill Police Officer is assigned to each middle school, all day, every day, and will be until a District-employed Campus Police Officer is hired for each middle school. Two more CHPD officers make rounds daily among our elementary schools.
- All parents/guardians/family members must present photo identification and the student identification number of their child prior to being admitted to the school building.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cooper School Carnival

May 19 from noon-4 pm
Cooper Elementary School
1960 Greentree Road

Board of Education Action Meeting

May 22 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

SCHOOLS CLOSED

MEMORIAL DAY
May 28, 2018

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

June 4 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

June 4 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

June 5 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

June 5 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Board of Education Work Session

June 12 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration

Building

45 Ranoldo Terrace

- All other visitors, including alumni, must establish an appointment prior to arriving at the school, and will be required to present photo identification to be admitted to any school.
- All Cherry Hill Public Schools continue to communicate arrival and dismissal procedures with their children and families.
- The STOPit app – an anonymous way for students to report inappropriate behavior – is being piloted at Cherry Hill High Schools East and West and at Beck Middle School.
- The District continues to work with security professionals to assess policies and procedures in place in all district schools and facilities.
- Construction will soon be underway at Thomas Paine and Woodcrest Elementary Schools to install security vestibules, comprehensive HD security camera systems, increased exterior lighting and swipe card entry systems. Upon passage of the bond referendum on October 2, 2018, these security measures will be completed at all of our schools over a period of months.
- All staff members sign in to the building when arriving and sign out of the building when exiting.
- All visitors to the district schools must report to the main entrance and be buzzed in, one at a time.
- All visitors are required to sign in to the building upon arrival and to sign out upon departure.
- All exterior doors remain closed and locked during the school day.
- All staff members wear their identification badges at all times.
- All visitors wear guest badges while they are in the building.
- Any student arriving late to school must be buzzed in the main entrance and report to the main office to sign in.
- A minimum of one fire drill and one security drill will be held in every school each month.
- Regular staff meetings will include a review of district safety and security procedures.
- Regular building level and district level safety committee meetings include a review of safety and security procedures.

This is a time for us to continue to come together as a community, to support our children and each other. Please do not allow this conversation to devolve into folks attacking each other in person or online. Students, staff, and community

members continue to be encouraged to follow, "If you see something, say something."

In regard to mental health, the District continues to offer a plethora of resources to students and families. Our school nurses at the elementary, middle and high schools are trained to recognize signs of stress and mental health concerns in our students and follow protocols for helping the students and their families take appropriate steps to address these issues. Each elementary school has a guidance counselor and some have a social worker and/or a school psychologist on staff. Additionally, each of our middle and schools has a Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) and a school psychologist on staff, in addition to guidance counselors. In some middle schools, a clinical social worker also is on staff. At the high school level, each school has multiple guidance counselors, a SAC and a Student Advocate. You may find the names and contact information for your school's counselor, SAC, psychologist and/or social worker on the school web site under the "Contact Us" link. The district also employs a psychiatrist who serves all of our schools. These professionals all are trained in recognizing and providing support for students who are feeling stressed and/or need mental health supports. Our teachers also undergo regular training regarding how to help students who are struggling emotionally and how to refer them to the appropriate supports. Mental health screening tests also are offered each year at the high school level to students in grades 9-12. Students must have permission from a parent to participate. Parents are sent a letter informing them of this option. They must actively request for their child to receive an evaluation. More information regarding mental health services and initiatives may be found in [Board Policy 2411- Guidance Counseling](#) and [Board Policy 5350 - Student Suicide Prevention](#). Additionally, [a robust list of mental health, addiction, emergency service and other crisis resources for parents is available on the district web site, under the "Departments" pull-down menu under the link "Student Assistance."](#)

Although we are facing difficult times, I am heartened by all of the good that is happening in our community. This morning, I had the great pleasure and honor to be present as the Cherry

Hill Public Schools was recognized as a 2018 National District of Character by the [New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development \(NJASECD\)/Character.org](http://New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD)/Character.org) at its annual conference, this year themed, “Building Community Through Character.” I am thrilled that our district has received this recognition! It represents the effort, commitment and culture **WE** all contribute! I am so grateful to each staff member, community member, parent and student for the role you have played in our ongoing commitment to character education, cultural proficiency and equity. Please read more about the accolades received today – including awards to our individual schools – in the article below.

I wish you a peaceful weekend. Let’s all do our best to model respect, responsibility and citizenship wherever we are, whether through a smile, a “thank you,” a helping hand. We can all make a positive difference in the smallest ways – and our small, kind gestures add up to a large impact.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Cherry Hill Public Schools Recognized as National District of Character

The Cherry Hill Public Schools on May 18, 2018 was awarded a National District of Character designation - one of only five districts nation wide to



Rosa Students Win Top Prizes at Junior Model United Nations

Congratulations to Rosa International Middle School's five student diplomats whose Junior Model United Nations position papers,



East Student Musicians and Thespians Receive Honors

Congratulations to the East Choirs on their success in the Worldstrides Music Festival in New York City! Concert choir received the

earn the honor - by the [New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development \(NJASECD\)/Character.org](http://NewJerseyAllianceforSocialEmotionalandCharacterDevelopment(NJASECD)/Character.org) at its annual conference, this year themed, "Building Community Through Character."

Our schools also garnered nine Promising Practice Awards, three Honorable Mention Awards (to J.F. Cooper, James Johnson and Kingston Elementary Schools), one State District of Character to Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School; and two National School of Character Awards (to Sharp and Bret Harte Elementary Schools).

To date, more than half of our schools have been recognized as State or National Schools of Character, while 99 percent of our schools have received a Promising Practice Award.

A huge thank you goes out to the staff, community members and students who helped bring this recognition to fruition!

under the guidance of adviser Ms. Karen Barry, garnered awards from the World Affairs Council.

Students attended the culminating conference for the year at Temple University and were treated to an inspiring keynote speech from Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, followed by a day of intense work amending clauses as diplomats of the world's nations. The themes for this year's Junior Model UN were Ending Food Insecurity and Protecting Women and Girls' Access to Education. Many students gave speeches for amendment proposals and posed questions in various caucuses.

Rosa's student award-winners for Outstanding Position Papers:

Chloe Shin

Ellie Noh

Crystal Yeh

Sophia Liu

Hamsa Vinod

highest rating of Gold.

East Singers received a rating of Gold and First Place in their division.

Chansons received a rating of Gold, First Place in their division, and Outstanding Choir Award. The entire choral department received Sweepstakes. Katie Cotter and Marco Porras received awards for Outstanding Soloist.

The East Theatre Department students also brought home multiple awards from this year's Mainstage Center for the Arts One Act Play State Competition:

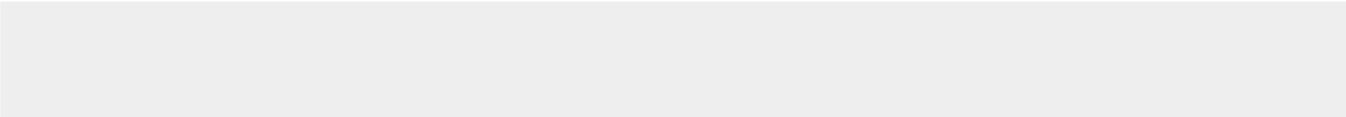
Excellence in Acting: Marco Porras from "Dog Sees God"

Excellence in acting: Anaya Colon from "Bang Bang You're Dead"

Best Actress: Cate Harding from "Bang Bang You're Dead"

Best Director: Harrison Smith from "Bang Bang You're Dead"

Best Play: "Dog Sees God" Directed by Haley Lopez



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