

PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

September 2022 Issue



Welcome Back!

We are excited to welcome all students back to school on Tuesday, September 6. Whether you are a new or returning student, family, or staff member, it is a privilege to partner with you as we educate and nurture our students into outstanding young adults. We enter the 2022-2023 school year with a firm commitment to embracing the strength and diversity of our Parsippany-Troy Hills community, deepening critical thinking and problem-solving skills in our students, and promoting student and staff wellbeing.

We welcomed more than 60 new educators at this week's New Staff Orientation and embraced the opportunity to share curriculum and teaching resources with our new staff and reinforce what an amazing place the Parsippany Schools are. All faculty and staff return to the district on September 1 and 2 for classroom preparation, school level meetings, and instructional articulation.

The district is finalizing new Strategic Planning Goals for 2022-27. Our work will focus on:

- ◇ Designing opportunities for students that strengthen creative problem-solving, critical thinking, leadership, and community service.
- ◇ Promote wellbeing of staff and students.

Specific objectives are under development and will be shared later in September. Please see the [presentation](#) to the Board of Education from June that summarized the many accomplishments from the previous Strategic Plan.

Thank you for partnering with us for another outstanding school year. We're excited to be back!

SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH PROTOCOLS 2022-23

- * District schools/buses will continue to be mask optional.
- * No mandatory travel restrictions.
- * Physical distancing will be significantly relaxed.
- * Reminders about proper hygiene will continue.
- * Individuals who test positive regardless of vaccination status must isolate for five (5) days. Upon return to school for Days 6-10, individuals must wear a well-fitted mask indoors and around others. Household members of an individual who tests positive do not need to isolate.
- * Students and staff who have visible symptoms of illness will be sent home and may return to school when symptoms subside. (Fever free for 24 hours without use of Tylenol.)



We want to make sure that you know breakfast and lunch will resume normal pricing (it has been offered at no cost throughout the pandemic, but that program is no longer available).

Please see more information on applying for free and reduced lunch in Genesis that can be found on the [Genesis Resources site](#).

This is a link to the paper form as well [Paper Meal Application Packet](#)



DYNAMIC NEW HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Teachers and supervisors were hard at work this summer revising existing curriculum to reflect new NJ Student Learning Standards and writing curriculum for several exciting new courses.

Women’s Studies: This elective course investigates contemporary approaches to studying women and gender in history and literature.

Honors Engineering and Design: This course dives deeper into the concepts of the engineering design process. Students will use computer-aided design and simulation to gain pertinent skills and experiences needed for engineering fields. This course is eligible for Dual Enrollment credits with NJIT.

Honors Data Structures and Algorithms: This college level computer science course expands on the content learned in AP Computer Science A. Students will learn methods of storing data for processing purposes, while applying them in larger, real-world situations.

Ethnic Studies: This elective course explores the history and perspectives of America’s diverse racial and ethnic groups including African Americans, Latino(as), Native Americans, and Asian Americans.

Guitar I and II and Piano I and II: These elective courses are for students with no prior piano or guitar experience.

Please remember that the bus routes may be a little delayed during the first week of school. We appreciate your patience!



SEPTEMBER DIVERSITY DATES

September 10-25 – Pitru Paksha, a time when Hindus pay homage to their ancestors.

September 15–October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month. This month honors the culture and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans.

September 17 – Arbaeen, a day of observance for Muslims that concludes the 40-day mourning period after the Day of Ashura.

September 20—HeForShe is a social movement campaign created by the United Nations to promote gender equality. It’s targeted at men to become the agents of change for women’s rights.

September 22 – Autumnal Equinox, a time for various religious observances worldwide.

September 23-31—Paryushana, a Jain festival about forgiveness that is the faith’s most important religious observance.

September 25-27 – Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year, a time for reflection in the faith.

September 26-October 4 – Navaratri, a Hindu festival that celebrates the Goddess Durga.



OUR GROWING ART AND MUSIC PROGRAM

With the hiring this summer of new Strings teachers for Brooklawn Middle School and Central Middle School, the district’s Strings program is expanding beyond elementary school and is open to middle school students. Nearly 100 students will continue their Strings instruction in 6th grade, and 7th and 8th grade students are also able to join in. Elementary students take lessons with either the Violin, Viola, or Cello. Middle school Strings students still have these options, and can also add Double Bass as an instrument option.

With the addition of new elective classes at the high schools in Piano and Guitar, the district’s music program is really evolving. Our new Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts, Alison Caravano, spent July and August visiting with teachers, observing the *Talented Art Program* offered for middle school students this summer, and securing necessary teaching materials and instruments for her department.

