

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Note from the Superintendent

October 2017

Vaping, Drinking, and Drugs

With students gearing up for Cougar Weekend and Homecoming, it is a good time to remind them that the use of illicit substances is prohibited at school and school events. I would like to draw your attention especially to e-cigarette delivery systems, pictured right, which can easily be confused with USB flash drives. It is illegal for students to purchase or possess these items in New Jersey, and students will face disciplinary consequences for having them at school. As per



Board policy, those consequences may include a drug screening and possible suspension from school. Finally, I will inform you that students attending the games this weekend may be subject to a Passive Breath Alcohol Sensory Device screening upon admission.

Referendum and Construction Progress

The Board of Education recently awarded the construction bids for the Milton Avenue School addition, the Chatham Middle School addition, the Chatham High School Auditorium renovation, and the Central Office building. Construction on all of these projects will begin within the next four to eight weeks. Our principals have been involved in meetings with our architects and contractors to develop plans to minimize the disruption that construction could cause. Please look out for communications from your child's school about potential impacts to routines or procedures as a result of this work.

Playground at WAS

The district had the great fortune recently of accepting a number of incredible gifts from the school PTOs. At the high school, the PTO helped to refurbish the Library-Media Center. At Washington Avenue, the PTO spent last year raising funds to replace the main playground. District officials and I met with both the manufacturer and installer of this equipment at WAS on February 28 to review the plans for the new playground and confirm a schedule that would ensure that the installation would be complete by the start of this school year. The manufacturer finalized the drawings, we issued a purchase order on June 6, we gained formal approval from the Borough Planning Board on June 21, and the installation was scheduled for the end of August. However, due to scheduling delays on the part of the installer and then concerns on the part of the installer that had not been communicated to us previously—but that required additional site work from another vendor—the playground has yet to be installed.

We are continuing to address this situation and we expect the installation to take place the week of October 16—20. We apologize for the delay and thank all affected for their patience.

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The Pulse!

Are You Afraid
of the
Pulse?

At our last Board of Education meeting, the current cast and crew of Chatham High School's original television program, *The CHS Pulse*, gave an overview of how they work their magic. Led by their advisor and high school teacher, Connor Henderson, the group detailed how they generate ideas, film, and edit their work.

When you have a chance, check out [The CHS Pulse for yourself on YouTube](#).

Week of Respect and the Anti-Bullying Law

Our schools recently observed the Week of Respect, involving students' participation in activities aimed at promoting a culture of kindness and acceptance throughout the district. I will remind you that New Jersey's anti-bullying law is often touted as being the toughest in the United States and that the school district must take seriously any potential act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The way the district handles these potential incidents is outlined in [Board policy](#) and may lead to significant disciplinary consequences, including suspension from school. Please speak with your child about being respectful of others.



Lending a Hand

When SDOC staff returned to school in September, we asked that they help the victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma by bringing in a donation to either the Texas Diaper Bank, an organization that delivers baby-related essentials to families, or St. Hubert's, which had rescued a



number of animals from the hardest-hit areas. We then partnered with the Township Police and our high school Key Club to get the goods to where they needed to go. It was a nice show of community-based teamwork!



Emergency Notification System

I would not mind at all if the temperatures remained in the 70s and 80s all year, but inevitably we will face inclement weather. Please make sure that you have updated all of your contact information in the Genesis Parent Portal. Notifications about school cancellations or other emergencies will be sent to the email addresses and phone numbers in that system.