



Superintendent's Report

April 30, 2026

On Saturday, April 25, I had the pleasure of representing Closter Public Schools at the Bergen County Educator Job Fair alongside Ms. Cipollini and Ms. Cohen. I am grateful to them both for giving their time on a weekend to support our district's recruitment efforts. As we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, we have five open positions resulting from retirements and resignations. The job fair provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with many promising candidates, and we look forward to beginning the interview process soon.

Our district celebrated Arbor Day on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, with a ceremony at each school to recognize the winners of the Closter Borough's Arbor Day poster contest. The winning students were recognized, and the student council officers at TMS and poster contest winners at HES assisted in shoveling dirt around a newly-planted red oak tree. At the TMS ceremony, the school band performed Caravan, a jazz standard composed by Juan Tizol and Duke Ellington. Mayor Glidden shared a proclamation at both schools. Jim Oettinger, Chairperson of the Closter Shade Tree Commission, also announced that the winners of the poster contest are eligible to have a tree planted in their front yard! We thank the Closter Shade Tree Commission for planting a tree at each school!

On Tuesday, April 28, the Northern Valley Regional High School District presented an information night for parents of sixth and seventh grade students on career and technical programs available at the high school. They also shared information about the early college degree program, which allows NVRHS students to earn up to 60 college credits and to earn an Associate's degree while completing high school courses – which can save money in college tuition! For those who were unable to attend, [the presentation is available online](#). If parents have any questions about programs at Northern Valley High School-Demarest, please feel free to contact Dr. Jennifer Mezzina (mezzina@nvnet.org) or Dr. Salvatore Lima (limas@nvnet.org).

The Tenakill Middle School Science Olympiad Team is raising funds for their trip to the national competition in Los Angeles, CA. If you would like to support them, please visit their [Spirit Gear Fundraiser](#) (103 items to go to meet the goal), which will be available through May 15, 2026, or the [GoFundMe Drive](#) (\$289 to go to meet the goal). The team is grateful for all the support from our Closter community, especially the Closter KPG, MEK Tutoring, and the Lion's Club for their generous donations.

The Closter PTO Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, starting at 11:00 a.m at Tenakill Middle School. All are invited to attend this fun event, which will include bounce houses, food trucks, carnival games, vendors, and more! We look forward to seeing you there!

Next week, May 4–8, is National Teacher Appreciation Week and we have so much to celebrate! Our teachers are the heart of our district. Day in and day out, they inspire curiosity, nurture growth, and go above and beyond to help every student reach their potential. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team. On Wednesday, May 6, we also celebrate School

Nurses Day. Our nurses are invaluable members of our school community, providing compassionate care and keeping our students healthy and ready to thrive. I encourage our families and students to take a moment next week to thank a teacher or nurse who has made a difference. On behalf of the Board of Education and our administrative team, I want each of our teachers and nurses to know how deeply you are valued. We are incredibly grateful for everything you give to our school community every single day.

During the month of May, students in grades 3 through 8 will participate in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 5 and 8 will additionally take the NJSLA Science assessment. Principals will communicate specific testing dates directly to parents. To help your child perform their best, we ask that parents make sure students arrive well-rested and have eaten a good breakfast on the morning of their assessment. These small steps can make a big difference! Our students have worked hard all year, and I am confident they will rise to the occasion. Wishing all of our students much success this testing season!

Save the date! Closter will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence on Saturday, June 13, 2026. The celebration will be a fun day for the whole family with a parade, rides, music, food trucks, and fire works! The event will take place at Memorial Field and more information will be forthcoming. Our students will be participating in art and essay contests in advance of this day and the winners will be announced at the celebration.

Tonight, we will have the public hearing for our proposed 2026-2027 school year budget. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Business Administrator Floro Villanueva Jr., his staff, our administrators, and the Board of Education Finance and Physical Plant Committee for their careful and dedicated work in developing a budget that is both thoughtful and fiscally responsible. I am pleased to share that the proposed budget maintains all current positions and programs. This budget reflects the Board's steadfast commitment to preserving the high-quality education that families and students have come to expect from Closter Public Schools.

Vincent Mc Hale