

WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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“Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World”

Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

“Governor’s School of Excellence”

Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School

Dr. Patrick Ketch, Principal

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Superintendent

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Director of
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& Child Study Team Services

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137 East Central Avenue
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November 12, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I had informed at the October 10 “Parent Meeting” for Standards Based Report Cards, I would provide an update detailing some of the measures augmented and intensified to continue the transition to Standards Based Reporting and Grading.

After Back to School Night, the Grade 8 Algebra section was restored to traditional grading to accommodate parent concerns regarding the Morris Hills Regional District 240 point requirement associated only with this specific course. Next, conference length in the MacKinnon Middle School has been extended, individual teacher meetings have been doubled in duration. Additionally, parents of eighth grade students applying to any specialty programs in the high school or to Vo-Tech, will be provided their child’s grade as a traditional percentage at Parent/Teacher conferences. This provides parents the traditional percent with approximately four weeks remaining prior to the end of the reporting period and before we need to supply data to the various programs. **NOTE:** MHRD Academy programs and Morris County Vo-Tech **do not** use eighth grade grades in their selection process; they refer to their grades earned in seventh. For our graduating class of 2019, seventh grade scores were earned as a traditional percent.

While we have been in constant and ongoing communication with the high school, we have hosted meetings with the supervisor of each content department at Hills/Knolls and with the Assistant Superintendent, whose primary responsibility is curriculum and instruction and oversight of their programs. We will continue to meet and communicate throughout the school year.

We continue to host “Wednesday Workshops” to provide support and assist staff in the transition and implementation of this initiative. Among the topics incorporated were “Grading”, “Assessments”, and “Providing Meaningful Feedback”.

Our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Silvestri and I have been visiting classrooms to provide information and to afford the opportunity for students to ask questions they may have. We will continue these visits and have offered ourselves for any additional or individual questions that may arise. In addition to the two of us, we provided students guidance to additional resources to resolve questions or verify progress.

Any change is difficult, and all involved are challenged with transforming their practices and mindsets. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to provide our students the content knowledge they need to be successful and thrive in the future.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Herdman
Superintendent