

# Voorhees Township Schools

March 2025 Newsletter

## **A Message from Dr. Hackett**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the seventh month of the 2024-2025 school year, we pause to reflect on the progress and accomplishments we've made so far. At the same time, we remain dedicated to executing focused strategies that will enable us to fully leverage the opportunities ahead, ensuring ongoing growth and success for our students.

## **District Calendar 2025-2026 School Year**

The district calendar for the 2025-2026 school year was approved at the Board of Education meeting on February 26, 2025.

[Voorhees Township Public Schools 2025 -2026 School Year Calendar](#)

## **Listen and Learn Meeting with Elementary Student Council Presidents and Vice Presidents**

I conducted a virtual Listen and Learn meeting with the President and Vice President of our elementary student councils on February 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was for the student leaders to share suggestions and requests on behalf of the students in their respective schools. After the meeting, I provided a written response outlining action steps related to the topics discussed. Below are some of the topics the students discussed:

1. Implement a Walk-A-Thon and donate the proceeds to a charity (suggested by multiple schools).
2. Include more writing activities in school.
3. Provide a dedicated classroom for the instrumental music teacher.
4. Organize a district-wide 5th-grade dance (suggested by multiple schools).
5. Create more opportunities for students across all schools to bond, such as tournaments and programs (suggested by multiple schools).
6. Allow students to complete their classwork during lunch.
7. Offer more vegetarian options on the lunch menu.
8. Add gluten-free options to the lunch menu.
9. Organize a book drive by grade level, rewarding the grade level that collects the most books with extra recess.
10. Offer guitar as an option for string instruments.

## **Curriculum and Instruction Update**

Professional development coaches play a crucial role in enhancing instruction for students in grades K-5 by providing targeted support and resources to educators. These coaches work collaboratively with teachers to identify specific areas of need within their classrooms, facilitating tailored training sessions that focus on effective instructional strategies. By utilizing data-driven approaches, coaches help teachers integrate best practices into their lesson plans, ensuring that all students receive personalized learning experiences. This collaborative effort not only fosters a culture of continuous improvement but also empowers educators to refine their teaching methods, ultimately leading to improved student outcomes in literacy and mathematics.

As the March in-service approaches, teachers can look forward to an engaging agenda that includes critical updates on various educational programs and training opportunities. Educators in grades 3-5 will gain additional insight into the Wonders Reading Program, which aims to enhance literacy instruction through a comprehensive and balanced approach. Additionally, K-1 teachers will receive specialized training on incorporating artificial intelligence into their classrooms, equipping them with innovative tools to support student learning. Middle school educators will dive into analyzing iReady data to inform instruction in mathematics, while ELA teachers will explore three new programs designed to enrich their curriculum. This in-service promises to provide valuable knowledge and resources that will empower teachers and ultimately benefit their students.

## **Parent Virtual Workshop**

The next parent virtual workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2025, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Julie Lyons, Director of Early Childhood, K to 5 Literacy and Dr. Melody Alegria, Director of Special Education will present information related to our specialized programs.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96170452440?pwd=DZMldUPU1ucRJrjieDoycaPiLjX7ra.1>

This workshop offers a thorough overview of the district's special education, preschool, and English as a Second Language programs. Parents will gain valuable insights into the curriculum, assessment methods, and goals of each program. By participating, parents will better understand how these programs support their children's educational needs and contribute to their overall development.

Dr. Neely Hackett

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

**March 7, 8, & 9: VMS Drama Club Presents SpongeBob Square Pants the Musical**

**March 12: Board of Education Meeting**

**March 19: Family Night**

**March 21: District Spirit Day - Down Syndrome Awareness - Wear Mismatched Socks**

**March 24: Parent Virtual Workshop - Specialized Programs**

**March 31: School Closed for Students - Staff In-service**

## **2024 - 2025 Assessment Schedule**

[https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7358/Assessment%20Schedule%20and%20Requirements%202024-2025%20revised%2011\\_24.pdf](https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7358/Assessment%20Schedule%20and%20Requirements%202024-2025%20revised%2011_24.pdf)

## Superintendent Forums for the 2024-2025 School Year

The Superintendent's Forums provide an opportunity for the community to engage with me in a collaborative partnership with the ultimate goal of providing all students with a quality educational experience. Please join me to share ideas, knowledge, opinions, and concerns on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. at the Board Administration Building:

- Tuesday, March 18, 2025
- Monday, May 19, 2025

## District Spirit Theme Days

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/1/District%20Spirit%20Day%202024%202025%20revised.pdf>

## Parent Virtual Workshops

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/ModuleInstance/5783/Parent%20Workshops%202024%202025.pdf>

## Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/8957>

## Download the VTSD Mobile App

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/7365>

## Voorhees Township Public Service Event

Like us on Facebook - Check out all of the great things happening around the district!



### Voorhees Township Public School - Administration Building

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**Sue Donnelly**

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