

## Week starting September 17, 2023

## Dear Linden Families,

We completed our first whole week of learning, which was a success. Our student participation rate remains close to 6,500 students. Currently, we are observing Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and National Hispanic Heritage Month, a period dedicated to honoring contributions and influences of Hispanic Culture.

As Superintendent of Schools since July 1, 2023, I understand that there are concerns regarding the safety and security of our School District. I want to assure the community that our students' and staff's safety, security, and well-being are my utmost priority. Everyone is to feel safe, and I will meet with all school principals to review and update our security procedures. Also, student support resources are found under the special services tab on our website.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our fantastic administrators, teachers, and staff members who have diligently worked to ensure a smooth transition into the new school year. Their devotion, professionalism, and commitment to providing a nurturing learning environment have already significantly impacted our students. The positive energy and enthusiasm radiating from our school buildings throughout our district are genuinely inspiring.

I encourage all parents and guardians to engage in open and honest conversations with their children about the importance of empathy and respect. We must remember that the strength of our community lies in our unity. The commonly known saying, "It truly takes a village to raise a child," is an African proverb emphasizing the crucial role of the community in a child's upbringing. Let us rally together, support one another, and remind our children that they are part of a caring and inclusive school community. Together, we will work towards healing, learning, and creating a safe space where every student can thrive.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Back to School Nights continues this week starting at 6:30pm. Contact your school if further information is needed.

Take care, Atiya Y. Perkins Superintendent of Schools