

# LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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September 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back for the 2021-2022 school year! A year dedicated to Resilience, Recovery, and Realignment.

This year will be unlike any we have faced before, as we and our students return from 18 months of COVID-19, remote learning, hybrid learning, contact tracing, and quarantine. By no means are we clear of the pandemic, but 2021-2022 will be about transitioning back to something closer to the world we knew before, fighting for a sense of normalcy even as we continue to contend with vaccines, masks, and even loss.

We welcome new colleagues to the district and wish old friends the best of luck in their next chapter. We have also introduced new positions for the 2021-2022 school new year: director of grants and dean of student support at both Soehl and McManus Middle Schools.

During the 2021-2022 school year, we will also participate in two new initiatives. Congratulations to Linden High School for their selection for participation in the Restorative Justice in Education Pilot Program with Kean University. The district is also extremely excited about being accepted for AASA's Learning 2025 Network of demonstration districts aspiring to become more Student-Centered, Equity-Focused, and Future-Driven.

We are also celebrating School One, School Two, Soehl Middle School, and McManus Middle School on being selected to join the Apple Distinguished School community with the class of 2021-2024! In addition, a super big congratulations to Highland Avenue School No. 10 on being designated a National PTA School of Excellence!

There are so many wonderful things that we have to look forward to this year! Soehl Middle School has a new principal and vice-principal, Gwen Long and Angela Paternostro respectively. And Michael Walters will serve as acting principal of School One.

Our five-year strategic plan will continue to be our North Star as we support all students academically, socially, and emotionally. We will also administer the NJOE Start Strong Assessments as a state baseline. We are purposefully committed to meeting the needs of all students!

We are a family, and Linden Public Schools are our homes. Welcome, Home Again!

Carpe diem,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marnie Hazelton, Ed.D." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Marnie Hazelton  
Superintendent of Schools