



Superintendent's Report

September 17, 2026

We have had a great start to the 2026-2027 school year! Our faculty and staff started on September 1 and 2, 2026, and we welcomed 1,156 students on Thursday, September 3, 2026. Thank you to all of our administrators, teachers, support staff, secretaries and custodians for all of their diligent work in preparing our classrooms for students. All of their diligent work resulted in a smooth start to the year.

Also, a huge thank you to the Closter PTO, who provided a wonderful first-day breakfast for our faculty, staff and administrators on September 1, 2026. We are truly grateful for your hospitality on the first day. I encourage everyone to visit the [Closter PTO website](#) for information on membership, their mobile app for keeping connected, and many social events including the Fall Social on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, and the Halloween Fair on Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Our eighth-grade students, along with several teachers and administrators, took part in Closter's September 11th Memorial Service this year, marking the 25th anniversary of that tragic day in our nation's history. The ceremony was observed with deep solemnity and respect, honoring the memory of all those affected, especially Closter residents, Domenick Mircovich and Ronald Fazio, Sr. We remain grateful for the opportunity to have our students represent the district at this meaningful town event.

Mark your calendars for the remaining Back-to-School Nights:

- Tuesday, September 22 2026: Grades PreK-2 , HES, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 23, 2026: Grades 7–8, TMS, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This evening, we honor five members of our school family, Cheryl Friedrich, Vincent Gioffre, Anne Haarmann, Sylvia Jost, and Patricia Sorrentino, for reaching a special milestone: 20 years of service to our district. Two decades is a long time to show up for kids, and each of them has done exactly that, year after year, with skill, heart, and genuine care for the Closter community! Please join me in congratulating these five outstanding employees and thanking them for everything they've given to Closter Public Schools.

Tonight, I will present the Student Safety Data System Report for second reporting period of last school year - from January 1 through June 30, 2026. This report includes data on incidents related to harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB), as well as other safety concerns within our schools. By analyzing this information, we can identify trends, assess the effectiveness of our safety programs, and implement necessary improvements to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. I am pleased to report positive trends between the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years: overall incidents decreased by 66.7%, HIB confirmed cases decreased by 75%, and HIB alleged cases decreased by 29.7%. We are continuously working to educate our students about conflict and how to resolve it respectfully, so that every student in our district feels safe, supported, and valued in their school community.

Please note that schools will be closed on Monday, September 21, 2026, for Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. We extend our wishes for a meaningful day of reflection to all who observe.

Vincent Mc Hale