



Superintendent's Breakfast
October 18, 2017
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION



Dear Parents,

On Wednesday, October 18, the first Superintendent's Breakfast meeting of the school year was convened. The breakfast meeting was well-attended with over 50 people present who represented all 6 schools. We shared ideas and discussed issues on many topics about education, the curriculum and the future of Tenafly Public Schools. I truly appreciated the input and comments from parents who participated during the Q&A portion. I want to thank so many parents for coming to share ideas with Barbara Laudicina, our Assistant Superintendent, and myself.

After brief introductions, we discussed a variety of topics, some in more depth than others. A summary is listed below.

- Expanding lunch periods at TMS
- Kindergarten/First Grade need more time to eat lunch
- Block time for World Language classes in the TMS
- AP Classes in THS
- STEAM programs in the Elementary schools
- STEM labs
- Support of Music, Sports and Fine Arts
- Public school curriculum vs. Private schools
- Air-conditioning in all schools
- Sharing parental input for real-world experience
- TREPS program
- Drug, Alcohol and Vaping usage and programs throughout the district
- PRIDE Survey to be repeated in the fall
- Stress and pressure factors students face with grades/college
- Drug Testing
- Graduation Rates up to 100%

- Community/Civic Service opportunities
- Contact BOE members and School Administrators to report drug incidents
- New Career pathways/ scholarships
- Expanded research opportunities in Science, Social and Market venues
- Gifted and Talented program
- Acknowledgement of academic rigor
- TEF and support of innovated pilot programs to support curriculum
- Diversity; initiatives, awareness and acceptance
- Special Education and students with disabilities fully immersed with kids
- Fundraising consistency for all elementary schools/district
- Social and Service teaching moments/ Community Chest
- Sabbaticals for teachers to gain new insights to bring back to students
- ROTC programs
- Languages for career advancement/Arabic
- Exam review process/take home completed exams
- Teacher accountability
- Haiku communication program/application
- Block Scheduling/more class options/time between class changes
- Traffic patterns/ Drop-off difficulties for families with students in 3 schools
- Solar panels
- Bicycle Rack placement
- Differentiated learning applied for rate of developmental abilities

If you would like to provide input or suggestions on how to share your professional expertise for mentorship and expanded learning opportunities for your child's class and/or school, please contact the principals directly. Your real-world experiences and input are invaluable to the district as a whole. I thoroughly enjoyed our exchange of ideas.

Again, thank you for your time, efforts and input on behalf of all the students, teachers and administration of Tenafly Public Schools.

Dr. Geoffrey Gordon
Superintendent of Schools