



**Office of the Superintendent**  
**Dirk Phillips**  
180 Hillside Avenue  
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

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July 22, 2021

Dear Glen Ridge School Community,

The Glen Ridge Board of Education will be meeting on Monday, July 26, with the public session starting at 6:30. The BOE is transitioning to in-person meetings as scheduled for September. As part of the transition, Monday's meeting will be in-person and broadcast remotely. The link to the meeting, which will take place in the LGI Room at the high school, will be listed on the website and included on the BOE agenda. Signs will be posted in the high school directing attendees to the specific location. Masks are optional for vaccinated individuals attending the meeting in person. Unvaccinated individuals will be required to wear masks.

Below are several important district updates.

**American Rescue Plan**

The Glen Ridge School District has received funding through the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, which provides federal funds to help states and school districts reopen safely, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Glen Ridge School District has received \$1,274,117, which can be used over the next three school years. The funds require districts to reserve not less than 20 percent of their total ARP allocation to address learning loss.

In late spring, the district sent a survey to the school community for input on how the district should allocate the funding. The results of the survey can be viewed on the following link, [ARP Survey Results](#). Input was also provided by the administrative team, the BOE members, and a school community committee. The proposed budget for the grant includes funding for addressing academics (academic teacher supports/interventionists, homework club, teacher professional development, and summer program), providing additional social-emotional learning (SEL programs and guidance counselors), a part-time media specialist (the part-time media specialist will be assigned to LAS and FAS and the full time media specialist will cover GRHS and Central School), and technology and facility upgrades. The ARP grant proposal, [ARP Grant Budget](#), will be presented during Monday's meeting with additional explanation.

**2022-2023 School Calendar**

The proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year will also be on the BOE agenda. Creating the school calendar presents challenges every year, due to the dates of holidays, the need to schedule breaks and build in emergency closing days. The proposed calendar calls for students to report back to school after Labor Day. In order to prevent extending the school year into the third full week of June, there are two changes to the calendar that differ from the past few school years. The February break will be reduced by a day, with schools closed Friday - Monday of Presidents' Day weekend. The April break has been moved to the first full week in April, as

opposed to the second full week. Click the link to view the proposed calendar, [2022-2023 School Calendar \(Proposed\)](#)

### **Fall Reopening**

The administrative team is monitoring the pandemic conditions closely and is aware of the slow increase in pandemic numbers throughout New Jersey for the past few weeks, as well as the [CALI Reports](#), and the latest recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics pertaining to masking. [AAP Recommendations](#).

In late June, the New Jersey Department of Education released a reopening guide for schools titled The Road Forward, [The Road Forward](#). Shortly afterward, the CDC updated their school guidelines, [CDC School Guidelines](#). The district has been informed that the NJDoH will release their update in the near future. We will be using information from these sources, in addition to recommendations from our local health director and the school physician to develop protocols for September. The district's protocols will be shared with the public in August.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Piller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".