

# MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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### Superintendent of Schools

*Community Message SY 21-22 No. 21*

**Jonathan Ponds, Ed.D.**

May 26, 2022

Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff,

Spring is in full swing, and our schools have been joyfully celebrating with concerts, field days, festivals, and outdoor activities. With the end of the school year near, it's time to start thinking about summer. See below for information on programming being offered through the district. Be sure to also refer to the [Digital Backpack](#) for other community activities to keep students mentally and physically active during the summer months. Also, with summer on the way, we will keep a close eye on heat advisories as students' and staff members' health and safety are paramount.

#### **Summer Programs from the Equity, Curriculum and Instruction Office:**

##### **Elementary School**

Families of students who are eligible for our Summer Step-Up targeted instruction program have been notified via Genesis. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer the Summer Hike Enrichment Program this year. We are committed to continuing our Summer Step-Up and like last year, we will expand the program from grades K-3 to grades K-5. This year math instruction is included.

##### **Middle School and High School**

Targeted instruction for middle school students will also be offered. Registration information will be sent via Genesis this week. High School credit recovery information will be provided by the Montclair High School administration.

#### **From the Operations and School Support Services Office:**

##### **Summer Enrichment Camps**

The Montclair School District is once again offering [Summer Enrichment Camps](#). Register [online](#) for many of your favorite returning camps and some new ones as well. We are excited about providing affordable programs of excellence to the community. Camps run for six weeks, July 5-August 12, Monday - Friday.

## **Good News**

Glenfield Social Studies teacher Dan Gill has earned well-deserved attention from the local media for keeping an empty chair in his classroom. Gill has told the story about a childhood experience to generations of Montclair students over his 52-year teaching career. The empty chair shows his students that his classroom is always an accepting place. See [story](#) for links to the recent media coverage.

## **Community Events**

### **Montclair African-American Heritage Foundation Festival**

The [Montclair African-American Heritage Foundation Festival](#) will be held on **Saturday, June 4**, from **1 to 6 PM** in the TD Bank parking lot on Bloomfield Avenue. The Festival will feature live music, dance performances, games for kids and more. All are welcome; please join us!

### **Rescheduled Lantern Festival**

AAP's rescheduled [Lantern Festival for Justice and Remembrance](#) will take place **Sunday, June 5**, from **6 to 9 PM**, at Edgemont Park. In addition to illuminating the park with thousands of lanterns to remember those killed and harmed by violence and injustice, including anti-Asian hate, there will be live musical performances, special guests, family-friendly activities, food trucks and the opportunity for participants to dedicate lanterns with special names or messages.

*The district is closed Friday, May 27, and Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day. As we gather with family and friends for picnics, barbecues and parades, let us pause during this time to remember and honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in our armed forces. These courageous people live on in our hearts and minds for their bravery and service to our country.*

*I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend!*

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jonathan Ponds  
Superintendent