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Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!**



**Montville Township
Public Schools™**
EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.

News & Updates - September 2019

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Referendum Work Completed During the Summer of 2019

Construction on Phase II of the district's referendum project was completed over the summer. We are excited about the renovations and updates that took place at Hilldale, Valley View, and Woodmont Elementary Schools. Students and staff will be enjoying their new restrooms, media center, and all purpose rooms as well as the HVAC work which has provided air conditioning in all of the instructional spaces. The HVAC system will now be linked to a building management system which will provide better control and generate energy savings. In 2019-

2020, the district will also be starting a lighting replacement project through our ESIP (Energy Savings Improvement Program) to install energy-saving LED lighting throughout the district.



District Launches New Learning Management System

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Montville Township Public Schools has transitioned to Schoology (pronounced School-ogy) as our learning management system. The system will be used designed as a home for all course materials in one place, much like a class notebook.

Through Schoology, teachers build courses and add course materials, including resources like text, articles, images, and videos. Teachers enhance the materials through discussions, assignment submissions, tests and quizzes. Students access and submit assignment which are then graded by the teachers.

Parents will receive an email on the first day of school which will explain how they can access Schoology to review course information for their child(ren).

Vaping is Not Safe

In July, the New Jersey Department of Education released this information:

The use of vaping devices has been steadily gaining popularity among middle and high school youth. E-cigarettes, or electronic cigarettes, also known as electronic vaping devices or electronic nicotine delivery systems, are battery-powered devices that were originally marketed as an option for adult smoking cessation. However, as of the 2016 NJ Youth Tobacco Survey, vaping had surpassed the prevalence of conventional cigarette usage. Though the Food and Drug Administration recently issued new restrictions regarding the sale of vape products, vaping continues to present as a growing concern among youth. There is a common misconception that vaping is safe. E-cigarettes are not safe for youth; most contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and harmful to adolescent brain development. It is important for consumers to know that even if the vape juice does not contain nicotine, the chemicals and metals contained in the flavoring can still pose a potential for harm.



Some key facts:

- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine-the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products.
- Nicotine can harm the developing adolescent brain. The brain keeps developing until about age 25.
- Using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.
- Each time a new memory is created or a new skill is learned, stronger connections - or synapses - are built between brain cells. Young people's brains build synapses faster than adult brains. Nicotine changes the way these synapses are formed.
- Using nicotine in adolescence may also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs.
- Scientists are still learning about the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes.
- Some of the ingredients in e-cigarette aerosol could also be harmful to the lungs in the long-term. For example, some e-cigarette flavorings may be safe to eat but not to inhale because the gut can process more substances than the lungs.
- Defective e-cigarette batteries have caused some fires and explosions, a few of which have resulted in serious injuries.
- Children and adults have been poisoned by swallowing, breathing, or absorbing e-cigarette liquid through their skin or eyes.

Parent Book Club to Feature *The Stressed Years of Their Lives: Helping Your Kid Survive and Thrive During Their College Years*

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, Montville Township Public Schools Superintendent Rene Rovtar will host a book discussion of *The Stressed Years of Their Lives: Helping Your Kid Survive and Thrive During Their College Years* by B. Janet Hibbs, Ph.D, M.F.T, and Anthony Rostain, M.D., M.A.

"This wonderful book defines and explores the many varied minefields of the college years with candor and compassion, and provides parents with practical advice and support about what to look for, what to ask and say, and when and how to intervene...I am grateful that there is now this long-overdue

and extraordinary guide. I should be required reading for all parents." - Judith Rodin, former provost of Yale University and president emerita of the University of Pennsylvania.

"I can think of no better guide than "The Stressed Years of Their Lives" for overwhelmed parents and stressed-out kids for navigating these turbulent times. This is required reading for the college set." - Brigid Schulte, author of the New York Times bestselling "Overwhelmed," Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and Director of Better Life Lab at New America.

The discussion will take place in the Montville Township High School Media Center from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please email Dr. Rovtar at Rene.Rovtar@montville.net to register.

The
STRESSED
YEARS *of*
THEIR LIVES



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*Helping Your Kid
Survive and Thrive During
Their College Years*

B. JANET HIBBS, Ph.D., M.Ed. &
ANTHONY ROSTAIN, M.D., M.A.

Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to Cedar Hill Elementary School, William Mason Elementary School and Montville Township High School on attaining Bronze Level status through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program.

All seven Montville schools have no earned the Bronze Level designation.



School News

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