



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

MICHAEL CITTA

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1144 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753

732-505-5500 Fax: 732-505-9330

Email: mcitta@trschoools.com

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To our Toms River Regional Schools staff, parents, and families:

As I write this letter, I'm wearing a holiday-themed hat because my friend and colleague, Assistant Superintendent Pat Thomas, instituted a 12 Days of Holiday Spirit for our team here at 1144 Hooper, and today is "holiday hat day." I won't reveal exactly what kind of hat I'm wearing, but it's been described as business-festive.

We all, myself included, wear many hats throughout the course of the year. Our teachers are friends, counselors, parents, coaches, and more. Our parents are teachers, chauffeurs, cooks, fans, nurses, arbitrators, and much more. Our students are athletes, leaders, performers, self-perceived social media influencers, brothers and sisters, and thensome.

A calendar year spent playing so many roles is fulfilling, yes, but exhausting. This time of year especially demands we ramp up the multi-tasking, as shopping, holiday concerts, preparing cards and meals only adds to our usual responsibilities. But *this* specific time of year—right now, these days and even hours leading up to winter break, the holiday season, and the New Year—is so special.

As we embark on an extended break from school and look with anticipation to the joy of the season and renewed hope of the New Year, I wish you all the opportunity to slow down and revel in the role you enjoy most. Whether that's Mom, Dad, friend, Uncle, neighbor, Grandma, party-hoster, playlist curator, whatever—wear *that* hat. And be sure to make it festive.

On behalf of our entire district team, a tip of our cap to you and yours. We thank you for making 2022 incredibly special and fulfilling, and wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season, relaxing winter break, and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Michael Citta
Superintendent of Schools