



# 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](mailto:mcitta@trschoools.com)

November 21, 2023

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

We began this school year with a theme, a mantra: *I show up. I count.* We even have T-shirts to prove it. Plus trophies. Incentives. Selfies. It's been a lot of fun.

We ushered in this theme primarily because we believed it. Every one of our students counts, as a human being and toward the larger picture of our mission. Every moment counts, and every student matters. We also believed *in* it, as a means of boosting and sustaining attendance.

So far, it's worked.

More so than at any time in recent memory, our students are showing up for success, and our attendance rates through the first three months back that up. They're here, they're learning, and they're growing, as students and as people.

This is but one initiative, which is just underway but which speaks to a larger truth and captures my sincere gratitude. It makes me indescribably proud to see this idea manifesting itself because I know the work that's gone into it, and the dedication involved from our students and our families. I see a renewed energy at so many of our buildings, and I see students who are thriving and happy to be at school. For me, this is what it's all about, and what I'll be reflecting on this Thanksgiving.

I encourage each of you to, likewise, reflect with gratitude on your role in and impact on our mission here. To set a goal, brainstorm on how to get there, and work together to make it happen is the truest form of satisfaction. To acknowledge the people around us who make life better—who make our dreams a reality—is, for me, the truest form of giving thanks.

And with that, I thank each and every one of you, and wish you a fantastic Thanksgiving holiday. May you spend it with those who make your life better. And even if some of those people drive you a little crazy sometimes, you still have to show up. Because at the Thanksgiving table, your attendance is required.

Sincerely,

Michael Citta  
Superintendent of Schools