

MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Superintendent of Schools

Jonathan Ponds, Ed.D.

September 6, 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Staff:

I am thrilled to welcome everyone to the first day of school! The start of the school year is always full of promise, and the year ahead feels especially promising:

- We are opening six more new Pre-K classrooms as we move toward the goal of free preschool for every student.
- A new District-wide instructional plan will increase learning time in reading and math and give teachers tools to closely support the progress of each individual student.
- We will be working with local partners to offer new opportunities for job training and pathways to work and careers.
- School Health Clinics at Glenfield and Hillside are open to all of Montclair and we will expand other services to our school communities — with the understanding that students perform at their best when they and their families are healthy and engaged.
- Finally, our \$188 million capital plan to transform Montclair's public school buildings and classrooms is ahead of schedule and under budget!

In the coming days we will send more information about these and other recent achievements and goals.

Today, though, is about our students' excitement and our hopes for them as they begin a new year.

It is a privilege to start the year with you. I look forward to seeing many of you today and in the months ahead.

Sincerely,
Superintendent Jonathan Ponds