

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**What's New at Sussex County Educational Services Commission?**

**We are hiring New Staff**

**Sussex County ESC is looking to hire at NHA: As our student enrollment grows and changes, we are looking to hire a FT TOSD teacher to begin immediately. We are also looking for ESY teachers to support our student programming for ESY 2025.**

**Para-Professionals- always looking!!! As our population grows, our students need support.**

**LDTC- Full Time**

**Speech Therapists- 2 Full Time**

**AVAILABLE STAFF FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS:**

**Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists can work on your site if needed**

**Northern Hills Academy**

The month of March at Northern Hills Academy was all about celebrating our love of reading through Read Across America Week/Month. This year, we were thrilled to see an overwhelming outpouring of support from many members of our community, including local political leaders, parents, law enforcement officers, and a member of the Department of Education who helped make the event even more memorable for our students. These guest readers read stories to our students, helping to inspire a love for reading! To commemorate the week, we organized a spirit week with the following themed days:

- Monday- Hats Off to a Week of Reading, Wear your favorite hat!
- Tuesday- Exercise Your Mind, Wear workout clothes!
- Wednesday- PAWSitively Wild About Reading, Wear something with animal print!
- Thursday- Ready Across America, Wear RED, WHITE and BLUE!
- Friday- Snuggle Up and Read, Wear Pajamas!

On March 13th, our staff members engaged in a professional development presentation led by Cara Faris, one of our student's parents, who presented on American Sign Language (ASL). The session was both informative and interactive, providing our team with the chance to learn a variety of signs that will enhance our communication with students. With Mrs. Faris's expertise and enthusiasm, our staff left the presentation feeling empowered and excited to incorporate ASL into their daily interactions, fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.

Our school community came together to participate in an Autism Walk, celebrating neurodiversity and fostering awareness and inclusion. This event brought together students, staff, and parents, all of whom took part in the walk, alongside engaging in a variety of crafts and sensory activities designed to be both fun and educational. The event highlighted our commitment to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals are celebrated for their unique abilities. Each year the Autism Walk has become a cherished tradition within the Northern Hills community.

**Project Search: Check out our latest newsletter <https://secure.smores.com/n/ka1w2>**

- The interns finished their 2nd rotation and are a little nervous to start their third rotation in April. The interns continue actively discussing the different tasks that they are responsible for with each other in their internships at both Newton and Hackettstown locations and asking questions while making suggestions for their next internship department.
- All intern evaluations have been completed and the interns have been progressing on target and the observations have been discussed and all are pleased with their observations and understand that they will need to work on a few things in their last rotation. Communication between interns/mentors has gotten better- now it will be interesting to see if they carry this

important skill over to their next department with all new staff-all new internships for the third rotation are set.

- The PS instructors continue to post pictures on the Atlantic Health website and the HR department has commented how great they look.
- Our interns in Newton are continuing to serve the Rolling Resilience snack cart to the hospital. The staff loves seeing our interns come to their departments and are very receptive to our interns and engage in conversation with us.
- Sparta student has completed the application for September
- Our Newton instructor continues to work on and send out our monthly Newsletter each month with the “goings on” in Newton and Hackettstown Project SEARCH!
- John O’Hara is working with AHS to conduct training for mentors and any other interested hospital staff in Newton and Hackettstown to better equip them with information and techniques that they may utilize without interns
- An Assessment Day committee meeting was held in Newton to discuss the upcoming Assessment Day for future interns.
- John O’Hara has attended the Statewide Project Search meeting in Red Bank to keep up with the new trends being implemented by different sites.
- John O’Hara has attended the AHS round table community meeting for the Nursing Department. It was a nice panel of former nurses asking us questions about the nursing staff at AHS- I believe it went very well.
- Assessment Day invites have been sent out and accepted for April 11th.
- Marketing is continuous through email and phone contact.
- John O’Hara has attended and ran a table handing out flyers and business cards at the “Future Fair” - a transition fair. at Mt. Olive High School to promote Project SEARCH on March 27th From 5:30 pm -8:00 pm and will be attending another Transition Fair at the Calais School in April.

#### **Non Public and Public Itinerant**

Non Public newsletter has been distributed to all of the parents of students in our non public schools. It is that time of year where the non-public schools are trying to schedule all of their Spring Assessments so that determinations can be made for students eligibility for Fall 2025 eligibility under Chapter 192. Our teachers are working closely with the non public schools to ensure this occurs.

#### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

As we progress through the 2024-2025 school year I would like to update you on some key areas related to the business operations of the district. Overall expenditures have remained within the expected thresholds. We will continue to monitor spending closely to ensure alignment with our goals for the year. We have recently submitted and received approval of our budget by the County Department of Education and look forward to successful implementation of that budget for the next school year.

As for facilities, we are in the preliminary stages of looking into the possibility of purchasing the building next door to our school with the goal of either expanding or moving to that location. We attended an introductory meeting with the current building owner to express our interest and he seemed very receptive to working with us. The next step would be to schedule a walk through of the property to gain a better understanding of the layout. The business office will keep the board updated as the process progresses.

**CONGRATS to the Board and the SCESC-Educational Services Association on a successful negotiations!**

**Regular Meeting**

**May 5, 2025**

**7:00pm**

**Northern Hills Academy 10 Gail Ct Sparta, NJ 07871**

**REMINDER**

**Full Representative Assembly Meeting**

**June 2, 2025**

**Northern Hills Academy 10 Gail Ct Sparta, NJ 07871**

**7:00pm**