

HENRY HUDSON TRI-DISTRICT

Atlantic Highlands Elementary, Highlands Elementary, and Henry Hudson Regional School Districts

One Grand Tour, Highlands New Jersey 07732-2039

TELEPHONE: (732) 872-0900 FAX: (732) 872-1315

Dr. Susan E. Compton, Superintendent of Schools
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July 19, 2020

Atlantic Highlands Borough Board of Education
Highlands Borough Board of Education
Henry Hudson Regional Board of Education

Dear Board Members and School Community:

As I informed the Boards of Education several months ago, I have been considering this coming 2020-2021 school year as my last year to serve as your school superintendent. This letter is to officially inform you of my intent to retire as the Tri-District Superintendent, effective June 30, 2021. Having spent eight years of my career here, it is with much appreciation and a heavy heart that I have come to this important life decision. These three school districts have become my second home and family, and I have considered it a wonderful and rewarding opportunity to serve the communities of Highlands and Atlantic Highlands.

It has been a genuine honor and privilege to serve as your Tri-District Superintendent, and I am incredibly proud of the work that we have accomplished together. I owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for entrusting me with the well-being of our school community's most precious asset, its children. It has been a pleasure to work with three outstanding boards of education, each comprised of deeply committed board members who demonstrate each day that they hold the best interests of children at the heart of their work. I wish to extend my thanks to all of the board of education members and board chairs - those currently serving now as well as all those who have served during my tenure here since 2013. The communities of Atlantic Highlands and Highlands are blessed with outstandingly committed board members, including former board members Sara Weimer and Karen Horner and current board member Irene Campbell, who have all served for twenty or more years. To our current board chairs, Alyson Denzler, Diane Knox and Gail Woods, please accept my gratitude and appreciation for your exceptional support and dedication.

I would like to personally thank the Henry Hudson Tri-District Education Foundation for all of the years they have supported our school districts. Back in Fall 2013, it was my vision to create a foundation to provide additional resources for staff and students. This vision became a reality, and to date, the Foundation has provided over \$100,000 directly to the schools and students. My sincere thanks and gratitude to Sarah Chiles and Corinna Thuss, along with our board of trustees, for your tremendous ongoing support and generosity.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our principals, administrators, teachers and staff members who have totally focused on academic excellence and doing what is best for students every day. The communities of Atlantic Highlands and Highlands are truly blessed to have such wonderful principals, administrators and staff members. It has been an honor to work with them and I will miss them very much, from the bottom of my heart. As a result of such exemplary teamwork, together we have accomplished the following:

- NJDOE Lighthouse School District – Highlands Elementary selected as one of seven school districts in the state
- Sustainable Jersey – Atlantic Highlands Elementary and Highlands Elementary awarded state recognition for Bronze Certification



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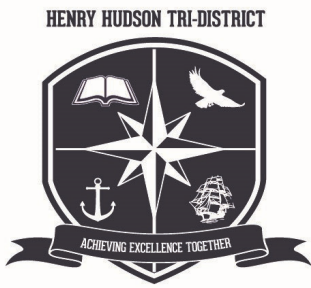
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- High Performing School Districts and QSAC Accreditation: Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Henry Hudson Regional/Middle States Accreditation
- New Jersey Gold Standard Certification: Safe Routes to School – Highlands Elementary
- Recognized by the NJ Department of Education/State Board of Education and Monmouth Freeholders: Achieving Excellence School Districts: Highlands, Atlantic Highlands and Henry Hudson Regional
- Highlands Elementary School awarded the Preschool Expansion Grant to fund full-time preschool
- Breakfast After the Bell Grant: Highlands Elementary School
- 1st Place Award in The Stock Market Competition/State/Regional Award: Atlantic Highlands Elementary
- Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition-1st Place Winners: Atlantic Highlands and Henry Hudson Regional.
- 1st Place Tiger Patch Garden-State Awards: Atlantic Highlands Elementary
- Jump Rope for Heart Competition-NJ/4th place Honors: Atlantic Highlands Elementary
- The introduction of the Henry Hudson Regional STEAM ACADEMY- 2017
- Henry Hudson Regional one of the 34 school districts in the nation recognized as a “District of Distinction” for the STEAM ACADEMY
- Henry Hudson Regional recognized as a national District of Distinction for its Therapy Dog Program and Schools of Tech Excellence/Game-Based Learning/Coding
- Monmouth County Freeholders, recognition of Henry Hudson Regional STEAM ACADEMY and Highlands Elementary New Jersey Lighthouse School District
- 1st Place Award in the New Jersey STEAM TANK Competition, Secondary Level: Henry Hudson Regional
- 1st Place Award in the New Jersey Robotics Competition: Henry Hudson Regional
- 1st Place and 2nd Place Awards in the Skills USA Competition: Henry Hudson Regional
- 1st Place Award in the NJ Softball State Championship/Division: Henry Hudson Regional
- 1st Place and Best Overall School Band awards, Boston MA: Henry Hudson Regional High School and Middle School
- National Elementary Honor and Middle School Honor Society chapters instituted at Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Henry Hudson Regional
- Tri-District selected to present at the New Jersey School Boards Association state conference – Shared Services
- Henry Hudson Tri-District recognized as the first to do a shared Tri-District Strategic Plan in the State of New Jersey, and recognized for our Tri-District Board Leadership Team
- Profile of A Graduate and Strategic Plans: Henry Hudson Regional, Atlantic Highlands and Highlands
- Over 3 million dollars in annual scholarships for Henry Hudson Regional graduates
- Facilities, Technology, Website and Logo updates: Highlands, Atlantic Highlands and Henry Hudson Regional

It is time now for new leadership to build upon the solid foundation that we have collectively established. I have no doubt that great accomplishments lie ahead for the Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Henry Hudson



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Regional School Districts. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve your communities these last eight years. Always, may God bless all of you and the students from our three school districts.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Compton

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools