



Greetings Dear Collingswood & Oaklyn Families,

We'd like to thank our school community for their continued patience and grace as we work together to keep schools safe and keep them open. We are actively in the process of finalizing our annual budget and wanted to provide an update prior to the Public Budget Presentation on April 25th in Collingswood and April 26th in Oaklyn.

As with each year, budgets are adjusted based on funding available, student enrollment, academic need, and school-specific priorities. All school teams are tasked with identifying their priorities and requesting the appropriate resources, and the district team is tasked with fulfilling as many requests as possible.

Continued misinformation has circulated around the annual budget process and the implications to school staffing and programming. As the budget process is still in the NJ Department of Education Review stage, we felt it important to provide answers to some of the frequently asked questions surrounding the 2022-23 school year.

**Is there a Reduction in Force (RIF) due to budget concerns?**

No. The district will see an overall increase in school-based staffing and services to support students for the 2022-23 school year.

**Are positions being lost due to budget cuts?**

No. All schools have requested more support for student needs that have emerged during the pandemic. This means some teachers will need to shift assignments to support those students.

**Has the pandemic created new challenges? Have school priorities changed?**

Yes. All schools have requested additional support in the areas of social-emotional learning, mental health, positive behavior, counseling, family engagement, safety services, academic intervention, and learning acceleration.

**Have there been a major increases in safety concerns at the MS/HS Campus?**

No. However, a range of school community members have expressed the need for expanded investment to maintain a safe, orderly learning environment for all students.

**Does learning acceleration mean all students will be required to double up on Math and English courses?**

No. All schools will work collaboratively to identify specific strategies, activities, and additional high interest courses to strengthen their academic skills and address learning gaps brought on by the pandemic.

**Will all elective courses be required to meet target class sizes?**

No. Many electives are specialized and may be unable to meet class size targets. All schools will exercise discretion in striking the right balance to ensure students have access to a range of electives.

**Will Music and the Arts be available to students?**

Yes. We understand that student interests and goals may change from year to year. The 2022-2023 Program of Study is similar to previous years which includes rigorous academic courses, college and career pathways, world languages, music, and the arts.

**Will the TV & Film Program be available to students?**

Yes. Interested students will continue to participate in this award-winning program.

**Will Latin be available to all students?**

Yes. CHS will continue to offer Latin as one of four choices for World Language.

**Will Family & Consumer Science courses be available to students?**

Yes. CHS students will be able to take high interest Family and Consumer Science courses.

**Will students be forced to remain in a specific college and career pathway?**

No. CHS students always reserve the right to select courses aligned to their interests and long-term goals.

**Will study hall still be an option for students?**

Yes. CHS staff will determine criteria, the number of sections, and eligibility requirements for students.

Updates will be released by schools as more information becomes available. Should you have additional questions about site-specific resources or programs, please reach out to your child's school.