



Colts Neck Township Schools

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

2023

March 15, 2023
Dr. MaryJane Garibay,
Superintendent of Schools



COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

EMPOWERING AND INSPIRING STUDENTS TO BE CONFIDENT, CREATIVE, SELF-SUFFICIENT LEARNERS WHO MAXIMIZE THEIR STRENGTHS AND TALENTS AND CONTRIBUTE AS RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR EVER EXPANDING WORLD.

Colts Neck Township Schools 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning Goals

Colts Neck Township Goal Areas:

- #1. Student Learning Outcomes
- #2. Facilities & Finance
- #3. Communication & Partnerships
- #4. Whole Child & Wellness
- #5. Engaging Staff



Process & Background

Goal #1 - Action Plan

Goal #2 - Action Plan

Goal #3 - Action Plan

Goal #4 - Action Plan

Goal #5 - Action Plan

May 2023 - Update on Progress - Year 1 of Strategic Plan

COLTS NECK SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

- **ACADEMIC:** *Develop and implement targeted action plans to increase percentages of students “meeting” and/or “exceeding” grade-level standards in mathematics and language arts.*
- **OPERATIONS:** *Implementation of the Strategic Plan - The district will complete all activities identified for year 1 (22-23) in Action Plans.*
- **WELLNESS:** *Increase identification of SEL needs, specifically in the areas of students’ perceptions of school and perceptions of selves as learners while increasing district-wide provisions of counseling and/or mental health supports.*
- **FACILITIES:** *Identify and pursue supplemental funding for Capital Projects directly related to indoor air quality and HVAC improvements.*
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** *Foster meaningful, strong relationships with parents/guardians and community stakeholders by increasing communications from the district and facilitating opportunities for both parent/guardians and stakeholder engagement.*



Colts Neck Township Board of Education



Heather Tormey, President

Kevin O'Connor, Vice-President

John Camera

Alison DeNoia

Brenna Dillon

Amy Dimes

Tracy Kramer

Andrew Rytter

Jessica Ramirez

Our Students: Preschool - Grade 8, Current Enrollment - 1017

Preschool - 3yr.	8
Preschool - 4 yr.	31
Kindergarten	95
Grade 1	119
Grade 2	106
Grade 3	105
Grade 4	107
Grade 5	108
Grade 6	105
Grade 7	114
Grade 8	109
Out of District	10

22-23 Student Registrations, Re-Entries, & Withdrawals

# of New Student Registrations (PK-8) for 22-23	155
# of Re-Entry Student Registrations for 22-23	23
# of Students Withdrawn during 22-23 (as of 2/23)	60

2022-2023 Military-Affiliated Students Served in the Colts Neck Township Schools

# of Military-Affiliated Students in 22-23	75
# of Families Served	46

Our 2022-2023 Staff: Current Total - 270

FTE - Certificated Teachers & Related Services Providers (OT / Speech / PT)	141
PTE - Certificated Teachers & Related Services Providers (OT / Speech / PT / BCBA)	5
Support Staff (FTE & PTE)	80
Bus Drivers / Other Transportation Staff	16
School Security Monitors	4
Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO), Class III	3
Department Managers	3
Central Office Support Staff	8
Administrators	10

Value of Student Voice:

“When schools find ways to welcome student opinions — to partner with students ‘as stakeholders in their own learning,’ especially at the secondary level — they do more than equip students with tools for lifelong success. They also wind up creating programs and policies that are more effective at meeting the school’s own goals for supporting young people in their healthy development.”

~Gretchen Brion-Meisels,
Harvard Graduate School of Education

STUDENT COUNCIL C.D.M.S.





- Build school spirit
 - Serve the needs of the school community
 - Serve Colts Neck and the surrounding community
 - Raise funds for school activities
 - Build relationships with local businesses
-



Build School Spirit



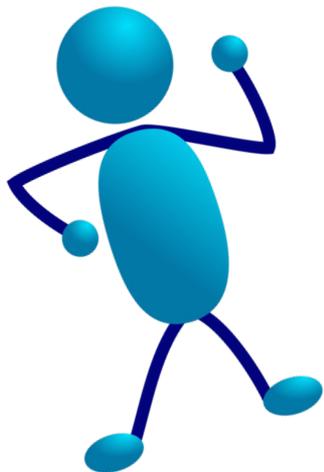
- Battle of the Classes - B.O.T.C.
 - Grades can earn points throughout the school year
 - Winning grade will receive a prize at the end of the school year
- Themed Spirit Days
- Winter Pep Rally
- Leprechaun Trap Contest
- School Dance in April
 - First school dance in several years



Battle of the Classes Results

	6th-grade points	7th-grade points	8th-grade points
Food Drive	50	10	30
December Spirit Day	10	10	0
December Jingle Bell Hotline	0	10	0
Pep Rally- Cotton Ball Relay	10	0	0
Pep Rally- Cup Pyramid	10	0	10
Dance Battle	0	0	10
Name that Tune Pop Up Battle 1/26	10	30	20
Ball Luge 2/28	10	20	30
Read-a-Thon	30	20	10
Trap that Leprechaun 3/17			





SAVE THE DATE

COMS

SCHOOL DANCE

APRIL 20 7:00-9:00

CASUAL ATTIRE
[SCHOOL DRESS CODE]

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

The central poster features a dark purple background with a glowing cyan circle in the center. The text 'SCHOOL DANCE' is written in large, pink, blocky letters within the circle. Above the circle, 'SAVE THE DATE' is written in cyan, and 'COMS' is written in yellow. Below the circle, the date and time 'APRIL 20 7:00-9:00' are in cyan, and 'CASUAL ATTIRE [SCHOOL DRESS CODE]' is in pink. At the bottom, 'MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW' is in yellow. The background is decorated with yellow musical notes, white starburst shapes, and a cyan grid pattern at the bottom.



Serve the Needs of the Community

- Food Drives to Support Fulfill NJ
 - Fall
 - “Souper Bowl”
- Coat Drive to Support One Warm Coat
 - Joined with the CDMS Make a Difference Club to collect over 100 coats





fulfill HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE

MONMOUTH & OCEAN

MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA





Touring the Facility



THANK YOU
CDMS

fulfill
MONMOUTH
& OCEAN
HUNGER
WON'T
WIN HERE

The Arthur M. Goldberg Building

817
pounds of
donated
items

680
meals
provided

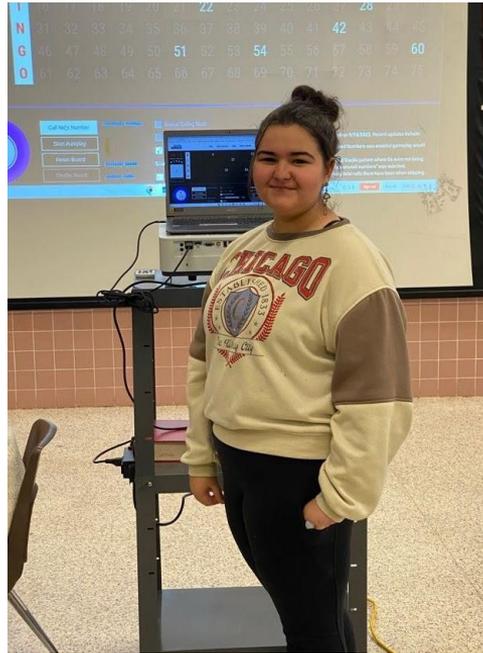


Raise Funds for School Activities



- Raffles
- Bake Sales
- Concessions
- After school Events
 - Bingo
 - Lucky Games





Build Relationships With Local Businesses

In the future, we hope to:

- Form partnerships with local businesses
- Invite local businesses to sponsor events/activities
- Solicit local businesses for raffle prizes and donations



Thank you to Dr. Garibay, Dr. Rigby, Dr. Beil,
and the Board of Education for supporting
the endeavors of the CDMS Student
Council.



22-23 Extracurricular Activities

Cedar Drive Middle School:

- Student Council
- Art Club - Art Show June 8th
- Academic Decathlon Team -
- Play/Musical - The Addams Family (3/17 & 3/18)th
- Make a Difference Club
- Yearbook
- Jazz Band
- Colt Band
- Advanced Chorus
- Peer Tutoring
- After the Bell
- Seasonal Intramurals
- Sports (XC, Soccer, Basketball, Cheer, Tennis, Spring Track, Baseball, and Softball)

Conover Road Elementary School:

- Bring the Beat
- Lego club
- Homework Club
- "Sew" much fun to be Kind
- Disney Discussion Club
- Technology Club
- Yoga - Grade 3
- Ceiling Tile club
- Love to Loom
- Adventures in Writing
- Passport club
- Postcard club
- Ceiling Tile club
- Never "Board" Club
- Structures of Life (Chick Hatching Club)
- Show Everyone Love
- CRES Scoop (Weekly news show) - Full Year
- Choir - Full Year
- Players Club (Drama) -
- Really Big Shoe - Spring

Connecting Mission & Vision



22-23 District Goal #2 - Operations / Strategic Plan Goal #4

Wait til 8th

for children to have social media accounts



- During our Writing Unit we learned the structure of an informational research essay by
- reading multiple nonfiction articles
 - researching to support claims
 - And writing two research simulation essays about the topic of social media being detrimental or beneficial to children.

Emma Montalvo
Luci Amadeo
Kamaryi Crenshaw
Brandon Dominczak
Joshua Dominczak





Claim: While children can call, text, and Facetime with friends, social media negatively impacts teens' mental health, therefore waiting longer to allow your child to open social media accounts may benefit their overall well-being.

The Problem



12 ½ years old is the average age a child opens a social media account.

A typical teen spends more than 44 hours per week in front of a screen (more than a 9-5 work week). Much of this time is spent on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook (Tarshis, 2015).

A recent study found high levels of social media use over the span of four years was associated with increased depression among middle and high school youths (Albano, 2021).

Alone Together

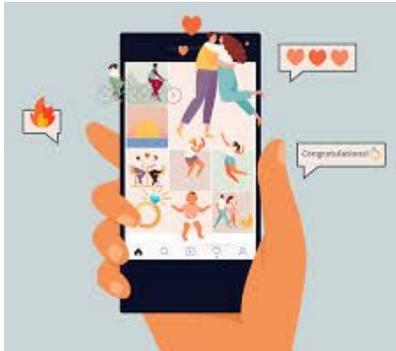
According to Larry Rosen, a professor of psychology at California State University, "If we are constantly checking in with our virtual worlds, this leaves little time for our real world relationships...often, even when kids are together, they are interacting with their phones instead of with each other" (Tarshis, 2015).



Imagine if your child is hanging out with friends, but everyone is staring at their phones instead of talking, laughing, and interacting with each other. Your child may feel alone even when they are together with friends because they are not connecting, which may result in them spending even more time on their phone in their virtual world. This may negatively impact relationships, people skills, and mental and emotional health. However, parents need to ask themselves do they model this behavior for their own children every single day.

Unrealistic expectations of life

“Our young people compare their very real lives to the make-believe of screens and find that their lives are falling short. They grow worried that they are missing out on something. The gap between pretend and real often seems impossible to bridge.” (Veciana-Suarez, 2019)



Social media is the highlights of someone's life. No one is posting themselves doing laundry, studying, or sitting alone watching T.V. Normal life involves boredom, alone time, frustration, disappointment, hard work, and obligations, but social media shows a life of constant happiness, fun, and success which is impossible to live up to. It leads users to feel disappointed about their very normal real lives as they compare it to what they see on social media. This can lead to anxiety, depression, loneliness, isolation, poor self-esteem, and feelings of exclusion.

Addicting...like a drug

“Using social media can lead to physical and psychological addiction because it triggers the brain’s reward system to release dopamine, the “feel-good” chemical. For some users of social media, their brains may increase dopamine when they engage with Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram or other social media platforms. When a user gets a like, a retweet, an emoticon notification, the brain receives a flood of dopamine and sends it along reward pathways. It feels wonderful, but it also acts to reinforce our need to satisfy the feeling next time.” (Lee Health, 2023)

This cycle of motivation, reward, and reinforcement is a “dopamine loop” that gets users seeking, looking, craving rewards and more of them. (Lee Health, 2023)



There’s growing evidence to suggest that some individuals can develop a dependency on social media that’s not unlike an addiction to alcohol or drugs,” says Paul G. Simeone, Ph.D., Vice President and Medical Director of Behavioral Health at Lee Health. (Lee Health, 2023)

Social media use has many risks, and one important one is our children’s health. Like cigarettes can cause cancer, social media can cause addiction which leads to unhealthy behaviors that impact learning, focus, and social and emotional and even physical health.



The solution

Consider waiting to allow your child to open social media accounts until they are in 8th grade or older. They can still have a cell phone without social media.

Model healthy behavior and relationships with your own smart device and social media as a parent. Put away the phones at dinner and during conversations.

Self-monitoring strategies



One recommended strategy is the "front yard" test: "Would you be OK with each post, comment, or like being on a huge sign in your front yard?" (Edlynn, 2021) *Think about this as a parent when you post and even tag your own children on social media accounts.*

Apply the THINK method: Is your post or comment True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, and/or Kind? The "H" for helpful also includes ensuring it is not harmful. Would anyone who saw this feel left out, excluded, hurt? (Edlynn, 2021)

Remind your children that social media apps benefit financially from an individual's dependence on them and are designed for addictive use, which hopefully helps your teen to want to increase their agency within their use of social media. (Edlynn, 2021)

As an adult/parent, practice these strategies as well. Children are more likely to do as you do, instead of empty advice.

Thank you for your time and attention.

We hope you found our presentation helpful, and you take it into consideration.



Works Cited

- **Tarshis, Lauren, "Is Technology Killing Our Friendships?" , Scope. September 2015.**
- Davis, Asha and Erin Burnett. "Parents may fret, but even experts say social media use has its benefits". *USA Today* via *Newsela*. Edited by *Newsela* Staff. 20 July 2018.
- Albano, Anne Marie. *Is Social Media Threatening Teens' Mental Health and Well-being?* **Health Matters: Stories of Science, Care & Wellness. 20 May 2021.**
<https://healthmatters.nyp.org/is-social-media-threatening-teens-mental-health-and-well-being/>
- Stevens, Alison Pearch. *Social Media: What's Not to Like?* Science News for Students, society for Science & the Public. 2017.
- *Social media can be both bummer and boon for the brain.* *Kaiser Health News* via *Newsela*. Edited by *Newsela* Staff.
- **Edlynn, Emily, "How Can I Get My Teen to Stop Posting Inappropriate Things Online?" 12 March 2021.**
<https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/ask-your-mom/how-can-i-get-my-teen-to-stop-posting-inappropriate-things-on-social-media/>

How Are We Doing as a Public School District in NJ?



New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)



The New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) is the Department of Education's monitoring and district self-evaluation system for public school districts. The system shifts the monitoring and evaluation focus from compliance to assistance, capacity-building and improvement. It is a single comprehensive accountability system that consolidates and incorporates the monitoring requirements of applicable state laws and programs and complements federally required improvements. The system focuses on monitoring and evaluating school districts in five key components that, based on research, have been identified to be key factors in effective school districts. These components are **Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel.**

<https://www.nj.gov/education/qsac/>

2021-2022 QSAC Placement Scores & Designation

Designation: “High Performing”

Instruction & Programs	87%
Fiscal Management	90%
Governance	95%
Operations	92%
Personnel	100%



[Colts Neck Township Schools QSAC Placement Letter](#)
[Colts Neck Township Schools QSAC DPR 21-22](#)



Finance

March 1, 2023 - Presentation of the 2021-22 Auditor's Management Report by Mr. John Swisher of Suplee, Clooney & Company

FY 2021-2022 - No Recommendations or Findings

Areas of Audit:

Administrative Practices & Procedures
Financial Planning, Accounting, & Reporting
School Purchasing Program
School Food Services
Student Body Activities
Application for State School Aid
Pupil Transportation
Facilities & Capital Assets
Miscellaneous

Past Years [District Annual Audit Information](#)

Facilities

22-23 School Year: Inquiry & Investigation into 3 new funding opportunities for hvac and related capital projects:

- NJSDA- DOE \$350m ROD grant program
- NJSDA- DOE \$75m grant (district allocation tbd)
- NJBPU additional funding from \$63m unsubscribed funds from the the School Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program

Energy Savings Improvement Plan (ESIP):

- **December 8, 2022** - Energy Savings Company (ESCO) Interviews: An energy service company is a company that provides a broad range of energy solutions including designs and implementation of energy savings projects, retrofitting, energy conservation, energy infrastructure outsourcing, power generation, energy supply, and risk management
- **December 21, 2022** - Board of Education Approval of Award Energy Savings Improvement Plan Contract to DCO Energy, LLC.
 - Thursday, January 19, 2023 - ESIP Kick-Off Meeting
- **January 25, 2023** - Board of Education Presentation - Mr. Greg Burns, DCO Energy, LLC - Introductions and overview of district ESIP and resolution to authorize bidding for solar PPA proposals.
 - Resolution approval of competitive contracting for solicitation of proposals for solar power
- **February 28, 2023** - Utility Baseline and ECM Verification Workshop with DCO

Colts Neck Township Schools - Academic Performance

[2022 Spring NJSLA Assessment Results](#)

[2022 Fall Start Strong Assessment Results](#)

[New Jersey Department of Education School Performance Report](#)



[Colts Neck Township School Curriculum & Instruction Department](#)

Student Participation in Specialized Academic Programs & Services

Conover Road Primary School: ELA & Math Targeted Intervention Programs

Grade	ELA	Math	More Than 1 Service in TIP
Grade 1	28	10	16
Grade 2	18	10	7
Total	46	20	23

Student Participation in Specialized Academic Programs & Services

Conover Road Primary School: ELA & Math Targeted Enrichment Programs

Grade	ELA	Math	More Than 1 Service in TEP
Grade 1	5	16	3
Grade 2	9	13	5
Total	14	29	8

Student Participation in Specialized Programs & Services

Conover Road Elementary School: ELA & Math Targeted Intervention Programs

Grade	ELA	Math	More Than 1 Service in TIP
Grade 3	13	11	5
Grade 4	14	12	6
Grade 5	8	7	6
Total	35	30	17

Student Participation in Specialized Programs & Services

Conover Road Elementary School: ELA & Math Targeted Enrichment Programs

Grade	ELA	Math	More Than 1 Service in TEP
Grade 3	13	11	7
Grade 4	18	12	8
Grade 5	21	17	12
Total	52	40	27

Student Participation in Grant-Funded, Academic After School Programs, K-5 - 143 Students

Conover Road Primary School:

Phonics Club

Readers Theater Club

Author Study Club

PE Club

Mystery Book Club

Conover Road Elementary School:

Mathletes

Varsity Math

The Great Race

Sprouting Story Writers

Divide and Conquer

Math Masterminds

Wonder and Solve

Word Wizards

Student Participation in Specialized Programs & Services

Cedar Drive Middle School: ELA & Math Targeted Intervention Programs

Grade	ELA	Math	More than 1 Service in TIP
Grade 6	4 (Q1) 7 (Q2)	7 (Q1) 8 (Q1)	2
Grade 7	8 (Q1) 10 (Q2)	14 (Q1) 12 (Q2)	6
Grade 8	5 (Q1) 8 (Q2)	5 (Q1) 8 (Q2)	3
Total	42	54	11

Colts Neck Township Schools

Specialized Programs, Related Services & Therapeutic Interventions

Grade	# of Students with an IEP
Preschool	18
Kindergarten	10
Grade 1	11
Grade 2	15
Grade 3	23
Grade 4	15
Grade 5	24
Grade 6	18
Grade 7	16
Grade 8	26

Colts Neck Township Schools - Specialized Programs, Related Services & Therapeutic Interventions - Enrollment by IEP Program

School	Autism	ICR*	RR**	LLD***
Conover Road Primary School	12	23	31	0
Conover Road Elementary School	4	17	37	12
Cedar Drive Middle School	4	37	26	0
Totals	20	77	94	12

*In-Class Resource (ICR)

**Resource Room (RR)

***Language/Learning Disability (LLD)

[Colts Neck Township Schools Special Services Department](#)

22-23 District Goal #1 - ACADEMIC

Colts Neck Township Schools - Specialized Programs, Related Services & Therapeutic Interventions - Enrollment by Related Service w/ IEP

School	Behavioral Intervention/ Supports	Counseling Services	Occupational Therapy	Physical Therapy	Speech	Social Skills Groups
Conover Road Primary School	19	3	31	11	42	13
Conover Road Elementary School	15	10	41	11	37	26
Cedar Drive Middle School	3	7	18	2	12	5
Totals	37	20	90	24	91	44

Colts Neck Township Schools - Specialized Programs, Related Services & Therapeutic Interventions - Enrollment by Related Service w/ out IEP

School	Counseling	Occupational Therapy	Push-In OT Bal-A-Vis-X	Physical Therapy	Push-In ABLE Physical Therapy	Speech	Push-In Speech/V&V
Conover Road Primary School	22	16			100	21	49
Conover Road Elementary School	13	6		1	67	9	
Cedar Drive Middle School	27	1	71				
Totals	62	23	71	1	167	30	49

22-23 District Goal #1 - ACADEMIC

Colts Neck Township Schools - Programs, Related Services & Therapeutic Interventions - SEL Screener

School	# of Students Screened	Total # of students identified by PASS Screener	Total # of Students in SEL groups
Conover Road Primary School	192/359 (53%)		223 (12 CLASSES) (Grades 1 & 2)
Conover Road Elementary School	166/320 (52%)	30	36
Cedar Drive Middle School	166/327 (51%)	20	23
Totals	524	50	282

Colts Neck is a MINDFUL School District 22-23

- District Wide and Community: “This And That” Video Show where Mrs. Conforti and Mrs. Hums share monthly MINDFUL tips to help with anxiety and overall well being. Each Month has a different topic.
 - This And That Instagram Account - @THisandthat4schools
- Summer Administrative Retreat to Plan for Mindfulness PLCs with Staff
- New Teacher Orientation - Introduced Mindfulness, importance of it, how to integrate it into the classroom and different practices.
- Professional Development - To develop staff’s knowledge and skills in facilitating mindful micro practices with students.
- Creation of “Connected Classroom”: Combines Mindfulness and the A.B.L.E. program. Connected Classroom teaches the importance of movement and mindfulness in learning.

Communications:

- District Website
<https://www.coltsneckschools.org/>
- Twitter 
@CNSchools - <https://twitter.com/CNSchools>
- Facebook 
<https://www.facebook.com/CNSchools>
- School Messenger
- Principal / Department Newsletters / Weekly Updates
- Board of Education Communications Committee Newsletters & Events
- Board of Education Community Liaisons
 - Seniors
 - Colts Neck Township Committee
 - Colts Neck Township PTO
 - Monmouth County School Boards Association

New for 2022-2023:

Colts Neck Township Parent App:



Board of Education Coffee Chats:

- Wednesday, October 19, 2022
- April 2023 (date TBD)

District Wellness Committee

- February 7, 2023
- Spring 2023 (date TBD)

Board of Education Advocacy Committee - Meeting
with District 11 Assemblywomen - March 22, 2023



If you set a good example you
need not worry about setting rules.

Lee Iacocca

“ quote fancy

Professional Educational Collaborations...

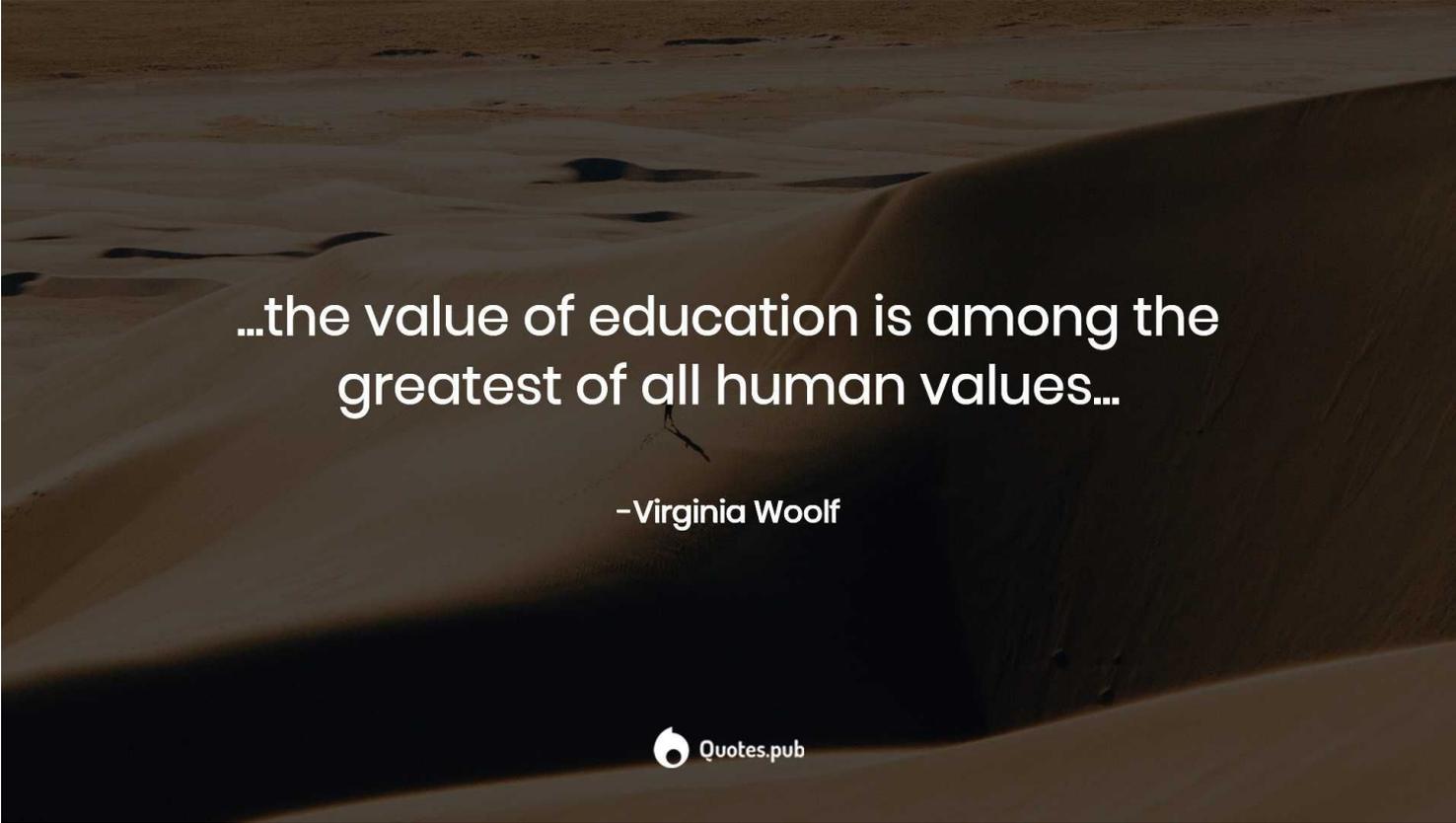
- Representatives from Freehold Township Schools observed Making Meaning lessons at CRPS
- Representatives from Little Silver Schools observed Linkit Intervention Manager in use
- Representatives from Marlboro Twp. Schools and Carteret Schools observed SIPPS lessons at CRPS
- Representatives from Brick Township Schools observed Writing Workshop at CDMS
- Representatives from Shrewsbury Township Schools observed Innovation Lab lessons
- Representatives from Red Bank Boro Schools observed Atlas Rubicon as a tool for QSAC
- Representatives from Avon Schools observed our Autism program at CRES to determine student placement.
- Representatives from Belmar Schools have requested to observe our Primary School ABA programs to use as a model for program development.

Recognition & Celebrations of Our Schools

- Colts Neck Township Schools' MOVES/SAID programs were featured in the *American School Board Journal* (2019)
- Colts Neck Township Schools' MOVES/SAID programs received the National School Boards Association (NSBA) 2019 MAGNA Award and were recognized at the NSBA National Convention in Philadelphia, PA
- Colts Neck Township Schools was the only district in Monmouth County to submit a successful grant application for the NJDOE's "Addressing Student Learning Loss Competitive Grant" - April 14, 2021. The grant provided the district with \$132,781 to fund its 2021 Summer Bridge Program and other supplemental programs designed to accelerate learning.
- Colts Neck Township School's was the recipient of the SEL4NJ/NY Jets competitive grant and participated in the statewide SEL4NJ Professional Learning Cohort
- At the SEL4NJ SEL Summit Colts Neck Township Schools was ranked #1 out of 75 participating schools/educators/organizations for earning the greatest number of "Badges" reflecting completion of the most activities that showcase, promote, advocate and support SEL in local schools, organizations, and communities.
- Colts Neck Township Schools will be presenting at the 2023 National School Boards Association in Orland, Florida on the district's therapeutic intervention programs

Thank you.

For questions, please contact Dr. MaryJane Garibay,
Superintendent of Schools - garibay@coltsneckschools.org



...the value of education is among the
greatest of all human values...

-Virginia Woolf