

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of the Glen Rock Board of Education welcome to the Superintendent's Corner. Please know that on a daily basis, the district is taking rigorous steps toward achieving its mission of providing all students an exceptional education and opportunity for personal development through a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum, accompanied by co-curricular activities that foster productive and responsible members of the global society. Glen Rock's public schools rank among the *best* in Bergen County and the State of New Jersey. Walking, or driving through the town center, there is an almost palpable sense that Glen Rock is a great place to raise a family.

Throughout its history, the Glen Rock community has always placed a very high value on education; it is the foundation upon which the borough was built. In the late 1800s, when the state of New Jersey mandated consolidation of school districts, local activists concerned about the impact this would have on the education of their children went door to door with a petition to create their own school district. The cosmopolitan town of Glen Rock, situated 23 miles west of New York City, and the only Bergen County town to have two NJ Transit train lines, was established September 14, 1894. Glen Rock's current population hovers at 11,749.

Currently, the public school system is comprised of six schools serving a population of approximately 2,300 students in grades Pre-K to 12. The original Ridgewood-Grove School, which still stands as part of a private residence, has been replaced by four elementary schools - Richard E. Byrd, Central, Clara E. Coleman and Alexander Hamilton - plus Glen Rock Middle School and Glen Rock High School.

While the senior administration acknowledges the Department of Education's rankings in its data-driven decision making, meeting and supporting the academic needs of each and every student is paramount. To meet the unique needs of all students the school system employs a fully staffed Child Study Team who work cooperatively with families to determine the most effective combination of programs and services beginning as early as pre-kindergarten. Highly trained reading specialists are available in every elementary school to work with classroom teachers to evaluate and provide support to students. A program of academic advancement and enrichment is available across the district for qualifying students and is designed to expose them to a variety of experiences and disciplines, while challenging them to reach their greatest potential. Students at the high school level participate in a rigorous academic program. Glen Rock students are routinely recognized as New Jersey Bloustein Scholars, National Merit finalists, and earn numerous national, state and local academic, athletic and art scholarships.

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction oversees the development of all curriculum and instructional programs. Partnerships for dual enrollment, where high school students can earn college credit, exist with Bergen Community College, Syracuse University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Seton Hall University: Project Acceleration. New academic initiatives include a full day Kindergarten program, Glen Rock Professional Development Academy, nationally recognized STEEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Mathematics) program, and Standards-Based Report Cards. The district also maintains a working relationship with the Glen Rock Arboretum where students engage in hands-on authentic science workshops; *Water Day* is an annual favorite! The ELL (English Language Learners) Program addresses the needs of the non-English, and limited-English, speaking students with courses that concentrate first on basic English language skills and then on English language literacy skills necessary for academic success. An elementary/middle level Gifted and Talented Program provides eligible students with acceleration and enrichment learning opportunities. A newly revamped Basic Skills program provides scaffolding to ensure all Glen Rock students are prepared to meet and/or exceed standards. Academics are balanced with character education initiatives, nationally recognized arts program and highly competitive athletic programs, accompanied by a broad spectrum of extracurricular activities. The Glen Rock Public School District continues to distinguish itself in the areas of academic achievement, early childhood literacy, athletics, the arts and the integration of technology into its curriculum.

The Glen Rock Public Schools are supported by an active parent body through each school's Home and School Association and the umbrella organization; the Federated Home and School Association. Additional groups include the GR Booster Club, Glen Rock Educational Foundation, and an active Glen Rock Alumni Association. Those interested to learn about the Glen Rock Education Foundation may visit: www.gr-edufoundation.org and those interested to learn more about the Glen Rock Alumni association should visit: www.grhsalumni.com.

The Glen Rock School District has established a mission of providing each student with a world-class education based on the Common Core Curriculum Content Standards provided in a safe, supportive and technology-rich environment. The board of education and staff join with parents in a commitment to promote self-discipline, motivation and academic excellence in all children. Glen Rock High School campus boasts two turf fields for soccer and football, along with an adjacent baseball field, and five new tennis courts. Renovations to the softball field at Coleman school are underway, along with a football field lighting project at the high school. These improvements will assist the district to successfully achieve its ultimate goal, which is to assist all children develop into independent, self-sufficient, and productive adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly to the global community.

Thank you for visiting the Superintendent's page!

Sincerely,
Paula Valenti